DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Nobel Prize Economics

Mokyr, 79, won one half of the prize "for having identified the prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress". Aghion, 69, and Howitt, 79, shared the other half "for the theory of sustained growth through creative destruction". The laureates' work shows "we should not take progress for granted," Kerstin Enflo, a member of the Nobel committee, said during a news conference. "Instead, society must keep an eye on the factors that generate and sustain economic growth," she added.

Joel Mokyr (American-Israeli)

Philippe Aghion (France)

Peter Howitt (Canada)

P.12

World leaders meet in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh

- Netanyahu didn't attend as reports say Turkey pressured against his attendance
- Mediators US, Egypt, Qatar and Turkey signed a declaration as guarantors to the Gaza deal

Today the skies are calm, the guns are silent, and the sun rises on a holy land that is at peace. This is not only the end of a war. This is the historic dawn of a new Middle East - **Donald Trump**

Hamas, Israel swap captives in big Gaza move

Trump hails 'end of war' as regional leaders sign Gaza peace declaration in Sharm el-Sheikh

GAZA STRIP/JERUSALEM/ CAIRO, AGENCIES

All 20 remaining living hostages in the Gaza Strip were returned to Israel on Monday and nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners were freed from Israeli jails as part of a ceasefire that US President Donald Trump hailed as "the end of the war".

The US president made a lightning visit to Israel on Monday morning, where he lauded Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in an address to parliament, before flying to Egypt in the evening for a Gaza summit where he and the leaders of Egypt, Qatar and Turkey signed the declaration as guarantors to the Gaza deal.

"This is a tremendous day for the world, it's a tremendous day for the Middle East," Trump said as more than two dozen world leaders sat down to talk in the resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh.

Earlier in the day, tens of thousands of Israelis watched the hostage transfers at public screenings across the country. In Tel Aviv, families and friends of the hostages broke into wild cheers as television channels announced that the first group was in the hands of the Red Cross.

The freed hostages, all men, were later reunited with their families, and footage released by Israel showed tearful reunions. "You are coming home!" Einav Zangauker, the mother of Matan Zangauker, 25, said on a video call with her son in Gaza for the first time since he was abducted.

▸ Gaza, Page 6

A hostage arrives in Israel upon his release by Hamas. REUTERS

HAMAS ACTION

- Releases **20 living Israeli** hostages
- They were handed over to **Red Cross**
- Says it will release **bodies of 4 of 28** deceased captives
- Unclear when it will release the **remaining bodies**

Freed Palestinian prisoners arrive in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip. REUTERS

ISRAEL RELEASES...

- **250 Palestinians** serving life sentences
- **1,700 people** held from Gaza during the conflict
- **22 Palestinian** minors
- They will be returned to **West Bank/Gaza/** sent into exile
- Bodies of **360 militants**

Trump praises India & Modi

Speaking at the Gaza peace summit, Trump praised India and PM Modi without naming him, saying "India is a great country with a good friend of mine at the top".

Details on Page 7

SC junks probe plea on poll roll 'manipulation' in Mahadevapura

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a PIL for a direction to constitute a special investigation team headed by a former judge, to inquire into the allegations of large-scale electoral roll manipulation in Mahadevapura Assembly constituency in Bengaluru Central and other affected constituencies in the country.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi declined to entertain the plea which was filed by a Supreme Court advocate and a member of the Congress party, Rohit Pandey.

"We are not inclined to entertain the writ petition which is purportedly filed in public interest," the bench said.

Details on Page 4

Lalbagh shaft, missing studies: Holes in tunnel plan

Govt-appointed panel finds 121 drawbacks in DPR

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The proposal to build a 16.5-km tunnel road between Central Silk Board and Hebbal appears to be on uncertain ground.

An expert committee, constituted by the government itself, had flagged over 121 shortcomings in the detailed project report (DPR), a critical document based on which the government is proceeding with the underground road project.

While project proponents claim to have addressed the committee's concerns, not all red flags have been attended to. Among the most pressing concerns are the absence of comprehensive geotechnical studies as well as the proposal of building a shaft near the Lalbagh Botanical Garden, an area designated as environmentally sensitive.

Thirdly, the committee had also recommended that at least 90% of the work site area should be free from encumbrances prior to awarding the contract to avoid time and cost overruns, which is yet to be complied with.

In April, the government had constituted the committee, led by S Hegaraddi, Executive Director (Civil) of BMRCL.

▸ Tunnel, Page 6

SHORTCOMINGS

- Absence of peak hour traffic data to see if project becomes redundant as it runs almost parallel to proposed metro line
- Entry and exit ramps may cause traffic congestion unless roads are widened
- The diversion of existing nala at Hebbal lake with a long detour towards the airport is unrealistic and proposed without hydraulic study
- Environmental impact assessment, including presence of ground water, aquifers along the alignment is missing

High command, not MLAs' support, decides CM post: DKS

BENGALURU/BAGALKOT, DHNS

CM Siddaramaiah

DyCM D K Shivakumar

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has asserted that the chief minister's selection will be decided by the Congress high command and not based on the support one enjoys of legislators, essentially setting the terms for his plausible succession to power.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah retorted that the support of MLAs was "crucial" for the top job.

"No decision happens on numbers. Always, it is the party high command that decides who should be where and till when. I know Congress. It does not work (based on the support of the MLAs)," Shivakumar said in an interview to a Kannada news channel.

▸ CM post, Page 6

CM hosts banquet amid rejig buzz

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a banquet for his Cabinet colleagues on Monday evening where he is said to have informally taken stock of his government's performance. The banquet also came amid speculation over a Cabinet reshuffle.

Details on Page 5

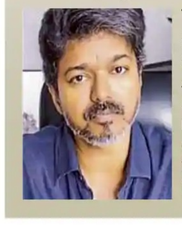
CM: Will study TN RSS ban model

BAGALKOT, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday that he had received RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge's letter seeking a ban on RSS activities on government land and he had directed the chief secretary to examine the Tamil Nadu model on the issue.

"The Tamil Nadu government has banned RSS activities on government premises. I have asked the Chief Secretary to study if the procedure followed by TN can be implemented in the state," he said.

Details on Page 5

SC orders CBI probe into stampede at Vijay rally in Karur



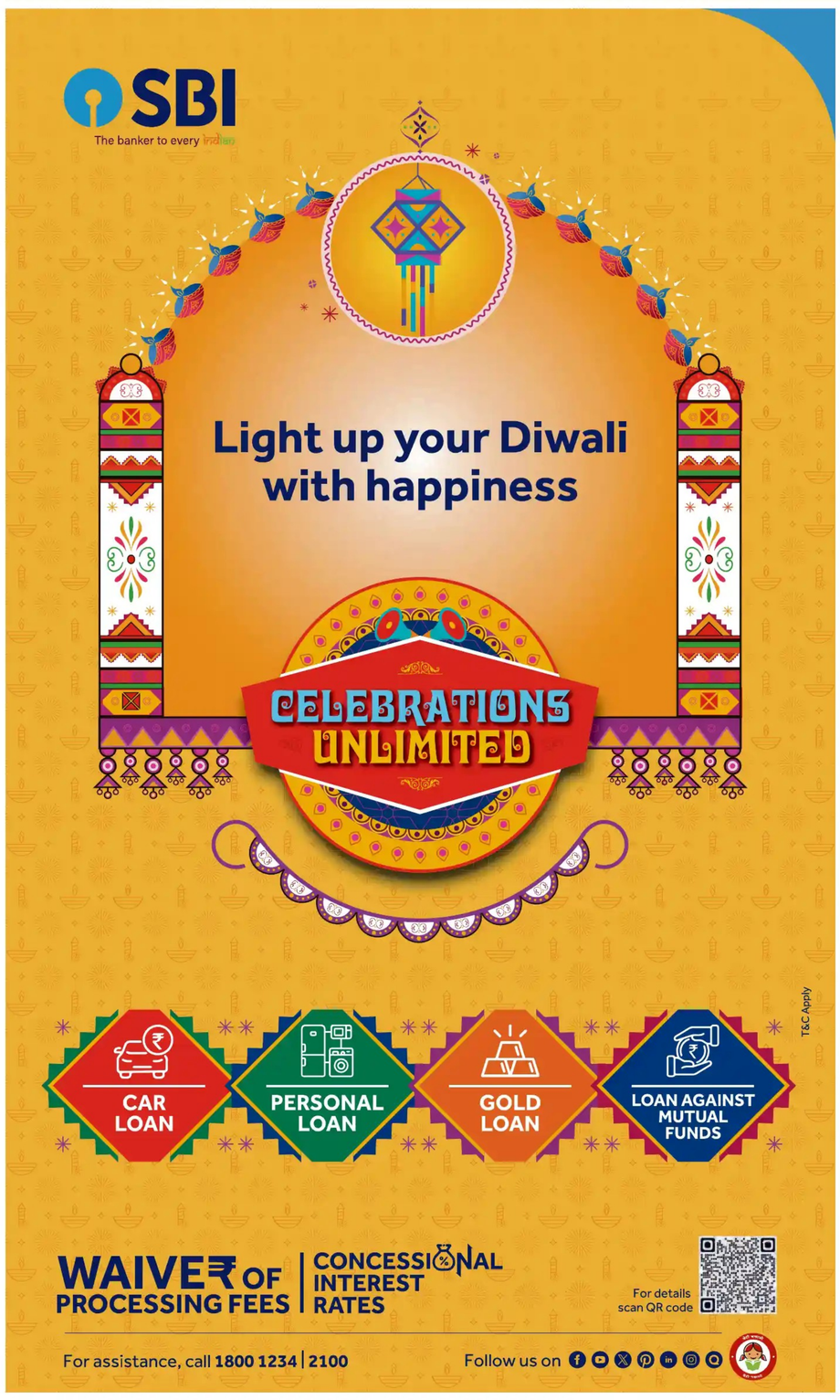
The Supreme Court on Monday ordered a CBI probe into the September 27 Karur stampede which claimed lives of 41 people. A bench of J K Maheshwari and N V Anjaria said the incident has wide ramifications in respect of the life of the citizens, and, in this context, enforcing the fundamental rights of the families who lost their kith and kin is of utmost importance.

P 7

EPFO now allows 100% withdrawal of balance

The board of retirement fund body EPFO on Monday approved liberalised part withdrawals for its more than seven crore subscribers, allowing up to 100% EPF withdrawal. Members will be able to withdraw up to 100% of the eligible balance in the Provident Fund, including employee and employer share. Withdrawal limits have been liberalised.

P 13



Quickly

India, Canada ok new roadmap to rebuild ties

India and Canada have agreed on a new roadmap to rebuild bilateral ties, moving on from the acrimony over the assassination of a Khalistani extremist in the North American country, as EAM S Jaishankar and his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand met in New Delhi.

Details on Page 7

Retail inflation cools to 8-yr low of 1.54% in Sept

Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation cooled to an 8-year low of 1.54% in September. This is the lowest year-on-year inflation since June 2017. The CPI-based inflation for September 2024 stood at 5.49%. The decline is mainly attributed to favorable base effect and decline in prices of food items.

Details on Page 13

17-yr-old jumps to death from school building

A teenager died on Monday after falling from his school building in Richards Town. The deceased was a Class 12 student at a prominent school and a resident of HBR Layout. The 17-year-old arrived at the school at 8.10 am and jumped from the second floor around 8.20 am, police said.

Details on Page 2

NEW NAME,
LIFE GOALS PROMISE
STILL THE SAME
BAJAJ ALLIANZ LIFE
IS NOW
BAJAJ LIFE
LIFE GOALS. DONE.
AVAIL 0% GST BENEFIT[4]
99.29% Claim Settlement Ratio[1]
343% Solvency Ratio[2]
₹1.30 lakh crore AUM[3]
MADE IN INDIA
100% BAJAJ
MADE FOR INDIA MADE BY INDIA
bajajlifeinsurance.com
Bajaj Life Insurance Limited (Formerly known as Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Ltd.)
Regd. Office Address: Bajaj Insurance House, Airport Road, Yerawada, Pune - 411006, IRDAI Reg. No.: 116, CIN: U66010PN2001PLC015959,
Mail us: customercare@bajajlife.com, Call on: Customer Care Number: 020 6712 1212. The Logo of Bajaj Life Insurance Limited is provided on the basis of license given by Bajaj Finserv Ltd. to use its "Bajaj" Logo. [1]Individual death claim settlement ratio FY-2024-25 as on 31 March, 2025 | [2]Solvency ratio 343% as at 30 June, 2025 against IRDAI mandated 150% as on 30 June, 2025 | [3]Asset under management (AUM) ₹1.30 lakh crore as on August, 2025 | [4]In view of the Government of India's notification to exempt individual life insurance policies from GST, GST will not be applicable with effect from 22nd September 2025.
BJAZ-PR-ECLC-17697/25
BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS /FRAUDULENT OFFERS - IRDAI or its officials do not involve in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint.

Woman doctor alleges sexual harassment in KSRTC bus

BENGALURU, DHNS: A city-based doctor has lodged a complaint with the Sanjaynagar police, alleging that she was sexually harassed by a co-passenger on a KSRTC bus while returning from Doddaballapur.

The accused has been identified as Firoz Khan, 32, a salesperson from RT Nagar.

According to the police, the incident occurred on October 2, after the doctor boarded the bus around 6 pm. When the bus reached Esteem Mall, the man sitting next to her allegedly misbehaved by touching her inappropriately.

The complainant immediately alerted the driver and called her brother, who contacted the police helpline (112). A police team rushed to the spot and detained Khan.

He was booked under Section 354 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (assault or use of criminal force on a woman with intent to outrage her modesty). Khan was later released on station bail, a senior officer said.

Trio arrested for robbing TN cop, his family at knifepoint

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three armed men were arrested for allegedly robbing a Tamil Nadu police sub-inspector (PSI) and his family at knifepoint on the Bengaluru–Mysuru national highway.

PJ Shaji, 54, from Puthukuli village in Nilgiris, serves as a special sub-inspector at the Cherambadi police station.

The incident took place around 2 am on October 7 when Shaji was travelling to Bengaluru with his wife to pick up their elder son, who had completed his undergraduate studies.

Around 1.45 am, Shaji stopped his car near Channapatna for a short break and a nap. Three men on a two-wheeler approached the parked vehicle, threatened the family at knifepoint, and escaped with two mobile phones, Rs 10,000 in cash, and a 16-gram gold chain.

Based on technical evidence, the police arrested three suspects — Syed Tanveer alias Tannu, 30, of Channapatna; Fairoz Pasha, 28, of Ramanagara; and Tanveer Pasha, 32, of Gejjalagudde. Police said they have recovered two stolen mobile phones, the weapon used in the offence, and seized the suspects' two-wheeler as well.

DPR finalised for 12 flyovers worth Rs 18,000 crore

Project will span 126.44 km; experts raise red flag

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for 12 new flyovers in Bengaluru have been completed in six months, marking a major push for the city's infrastructure projects.

The proposed 126.44-km network of elevated corridors — comprising short, medium and long flyovers — is estimated to cost Rs 18,204 crore.

While many motorists favour the plan, mobility experts, including researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), have cautioned that such car-centric projects provide only short-term relief and fail to ease congestion sustainably.

Among the 12 projects, at least four flyovers are over 10 km long, ranging from 10.41 km to 29.08 km. The remaining eight are shorter, with the smallest being a 0.55-km split flyover at MEI Junction on Tumakuru Road near RNS Shanthinikethan.

Officials said the DPRs would be reviewed by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) and the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) before being sent to the government for approval.

"About 75 km of the flyovers will have six lanes each, similar to the airport expressway, while the remaining 50 km will have four lanes," said BS Prahallad, Technical Director of B-SMILE.

In April, the now-dissolved Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) appointed three consultants — Infra Support Engineering Consultants Pvt Ltd, Nagesh Consultants, and Siddhi Shakti Projects — to prepare the DPRs. Land acquisition is expected to pose a major challenge as road widening will be necessary.

Pawan Mulukutla, Executive Programme Director (Integrated Transport) at WRI India, said the government must first frame a comprehensive mobility plan to study citywide travel patterns.

"Flyovers shift choke points from one location to another. They may help locally, but overall commute time remains the same. We need to first fix the public transport systems," he said.

Prahallad disagreed, saying the government's plan includes both short and long flyovers to address multiple traffic issues.

"If flyovers were not effective in decongesting traffic, why would a private entity like Embassy Group spend Rs 180 crore to build a flyover on the Outer Ring Road?" he asked. "Small flyovers may shift the traffic jams, but longer ones do not. We have identified four stretches where the flyover length will be long, and the traffic can exit the city smoothly."

Mulukutla countered, saying flyovers have value only when integrated into a larger network plan.

"Flyovers on arterial roads will push congestion to secondary roads, where the problem will worsen due to poor enforcement.

"In areas like Sarjapur Road and Whitefield, the road network is already inadequate, so the new set of flyovers is likely to worsen traffic congestion," he said.

Traffic crawls along the Outer Ring Road near the Marathahalli underpass. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

SHORT FLYOVERS	
Split flyover at MEI Junction	0.5 km
Grade separator at Pipeline Road	1.98 km
Flyover on Doddaballapur Road towards Kogilu Circle	1.49 km
Flyover at Konanakunte Cross on Kanakapura Road	1.52 km
Flyover at Adyar Ananda Bhavan on Kanakapura Road	0.93 km
MEDIUM LENGTH FLYOVERS	
Minerva Circle to Hudson Circle	6.97 km
Sirsi Circle to Nayandahalli	5.22 km
Shoolay circle to St John's Hospital on Hosur Road	5.3 km
LONG LENGTH FLYOVERS	
Mathikere Cross (Yeswantpur) to Tin Factory Junction	29.08 km
Nagavara Junction to Bagalur main road	17.34 km
Ulsoor Lake Junction to Bagalur village	27.19 km
Swami Vivekananda metro station (Old Madras Road) to Central Silk Board	10.41 km
Ragigudda Junction to Thalaghattapura Junction	18.47 km

PAWAN MULUKUTLA
Executive Programme Director (Integrated Transport), WRI India

> Flyovers shift choke points from one location to another. They may help locally, but overall commute time remains the same. We need to first fix the public transport systems.

BS PRAHALLAD
Technical Director of B-SMILE

> If flyovers were not effective in decongesting traffic, why would a private entity like Embassy Group spend Rs 180 crore to build a flyover on the Outer Ring Road.

'GST sales' sweep city stores

Customers make hay in festive season

SHRADDHA AK
BENGALURU, DHNS

With new GST rates coming into effect, supermarkets, traditional stores, and e-commerce platforms are rolling out 'GST sales' to attract shoppers and clear older stock.

While shoppers are told they are saving on GST, many FMCG brands and stores are using the moment to clear old MRP stock before new prices kick in, blending real discounts with smart marketing.

The mix of genuine discounts and strategic marketing has created a sense of urgency among buyers eager to cash in before the transition.

As part of the ongoing Amazon Great Indian Festival, the Great Savings Celebration #GSTBachatUtsav storefront enabled sellers to pass on over Rs 100 crore in GST savings across categories such as appliances, fashion, and essentials, the company said.

"The recent GST reductions played a pivotal role in shaping customer demand across categories this festive season," an Amazon representative said, adding that demand for air conditioners, inverter batteries, and dishwashers has surged.

Quick commerce platform BigBasket also hosted a GST Bachat Utsav, offering lower prices on products where GST had been reduced.

"We experienced a 20% week-on-week growth in those categories where the GST was reduced," said Seshu Tirumala, BigBasket's Chief Buying and Merchandising Officer.

Popular bookstore Higginbottams on MG Road joined the trend by promoting chocolate offers under the slogan, 'Save on GST, buy chocolates at a lower price'.

"We bought the stock last month, before the revision, but the revised GST prices are to be followed from this month, so we are selling them at new GST prices," said a store manager.

Retailers across Bengaluru have adopted similar strategies.

A RR Nagar supermarket employee, Rajashekar, said his store stocked up at discounted rates before the revision and was not heavily affected.

S Razik Fareed, Joint Commissioner (CGST), Bengaluru South Commissionerate, said businesses facing losses due to GST changes could adjust their tax payments on other products through the Input Tax Credit (ITC).

"If a business buys a product at a higher GST rate and sells it at a lower rate, the difference is added to their ITC, allowing them to claim those credits when paying taxes on other products," he explained.

Firms encountering losses over inverted tax structures could claim refunds. However, he emphasised that such situations should not arise solely due to ITC.

Potholes, litter greet GBA chief during ORR inspection

BENGALURU, DHNS

M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), was greeted with potholes, broken footpaths, uncollected garbage, and an unused bus stand during his inspection of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) stretch from Hebbal to Nayandahalli on Monday.

While inspecting the damaged service road near the Bhadrappa Layout flyover, part of the High-Density Corridor project, Rao directed officials to expedite repair works. He also flagged uneven duct chambers that had been recently fixed.

On BEL Road, where white-topping work is underway, he instructed the contractor to repair the damaged surface at BEL Junction and widen the footpath towards Mathikere. Similar directions were issued at Vidyapeeth Circle, which is also under white-topping.

Rao asked engineers to take up immediate repair of service roads between Rajkumar Samadhi and Nagarabhavi Junction, and in the Goraguntepalya Industrial Area, where roads are in poor condition.

He also took note of littering and blackspots along several stretches. A garbage transfer unit under the Summanahalli flyover was found to be poorly maintained and emitting foul odour due to leachate. Rao instructed officials to clean the area using jetting machines and identify an alternate site nearby.

The chief commissioner also ordered the removal of abandoned vehicles along the ORR.

Basavanagudi MLA Ravi Subramanya and commissioners Pommala Sunil Kumar (North) and Dr Rajendra KV (West) accompanied him during the inspection.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao during his inspection rounds on Monday. PHOTO: GBA

Transformer fire damages garage, four bikes in Rajajinagar

BENGALURU, DHNS: A transformer caught fire in Manjunath Nagar, Rajajinagar, on Monday evening, damaging a nearby garage and four two-wheelers.

The blaze was swiftly brought under control, preventing a major mishap.

The incident occurred around 4.40 pm on the 3rd Main Road of Manjunath Nagar, opposite the Kannika Parmeshwari Temple. Eyewitnesses said flames erupted from the transformer before spreading to the adjacent Shri Venkateshwara Garage.

The Basaveshwaranagar police said the fire was triggered by an oil leak from the transformer.

The spilled oil spread to the garage, igniting four parked two-wheelers and damaging the structure.

Police confirmed that no injuries or casualties were reported and that no case has been registered in connection with the incident.

Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar, in a social media post, lauded the fire brigade for arriving promptly and extinguishing the flames within minutes, averting extensive damage.

Bescom officials reached the spot soon after the fire was doused, removed the damaged transformer, and began preparations to install a new unit to restore power supply in the area.

Fire brigade officials swiftly extinguish the blaze, preventing major damage. CREDIT: MLA S SURESH KUMAR. (FACEBOOK POST)

Class 12 boy jumps to death from school building

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 17-year-old student died on Monday after falling from his school building in Richards Town, East Bengaluru.

The deceased, a Class 12 science student at a prominent school, was a resident of HBR Layout.

According to police, the student arrived at the school around 8.10 am and jumped from the second floor about 10 minutes later. "CCTV footage has captured the incident, but the visuals are hazy," a police officer said.

The Pulakeshinagar police have registered an Unnatural Death Report (UDR) and launched an investigation.

The school, in an internal message to parents, confirmed the death and announced that it would remain closed on Tuesday, as a mark of respect.

"We understand this news may be deeply distressing. Counsellors will be available on campus to support students and staff as they process their emotions and grief," the message said.

Helpline
If you are experiencing thoughts of self-harm or suicide, please reach out to the TeleMANAS helpline at 14416 for support.

Woman ends life after argument with husband over phone recharge

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 28-year-old woman died by suicide after allegedly jumping from the terrace of her house in Kengeri on Sunday evening, following an argument with her husband over a mobile phone recharge.

The deceased, Shikha Devi, was a homemaker. She had married Sandeep Kumar in 2019 and initially lived with her family in Fatehpur district, Uttar Pradesh, while Kumar worked in Bengaluru.

Two years ago, she and their two-year-old son joined him in the city, where the family lived in a rented house in Kengeri.

According to the police, the incident occurred around 5.15 pm on Sunday. Shikha had reportedly argued with her husband for not recharging her mobile phone. About 15 minutes later, she threw her phone aside, ran upstairs to the terrace of their three-storey building, and jumped.

Kumar and other family members rushed her to a nearby hospital, where she was declared brought dead.

Shikha's father, Anil Kumar Tripathi, who reached Bengaluru the next day, told the police he did not suspect any foul play.

Electric scooter fire sparks panic in Basaveshwaranagar

BENGALURU, DHNS: An electric scooter caught fire while being charged at a house in Basaveshwaranagar late on Sunday night, triggering panic among residents.

The blaze spread to the basement, gutting two bicycles and damaging parts of the house before fire and emergency personnel arrived and brought the situation under control.

The scooter belonged to Mukesh Kumar, a resident of Shivanahalli, who runs a cloth business in Nagarathpet.

"I had purchased the vehicle from a local vendor for Rs 28,000 about a year ago. It was out of warranty. My son used it for his daily commute. The battery exploded suddenly, and with neighbours' help, we dragged it out before the fire spread to the adjoining building," he said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the fire was caused by overcharging and a failure in the automatic power cutoff system.

The Basaveshwaranagar police have registered a case of accidental fire and taken up further investigation.

The scooter burst into flames while being charged at home.

Two months after man's 'accidental' death; police file fresh FIR

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Hulimavu police have registered a fresh FIR two months after the death of a 32-year-old man, who was initially believed to have died in a road accident.

The case, filed on October 9, was transferred to the Hulimavu police from their traffic wing following suspicions raised by the victim's father.

Police said Arun Raj was found critically injured on August 6 beside his two-wheeler by a passerby. The vehicle's indicators and footboard were damaged, as was the helmet he had been wearing.

The Hulimavu traffic police had registered a case of accident and sent the body for post-mortem. "Death was due to skull fracture and intracranial haemorrhage as a result of injury sustained," a police officer said, citing the autopsy report dated August 11.

Raj's father, however, told the police he believed his son had been murdered. Acting on his statement, the traffic police transferred the case to the jurisdictional police.

The Hulimavu police later filed a fresh FIR under Section 103 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for murder after receiving replies to their queries from their traffic counterparts.

Police sources said there is no prima facie evidence yet to confirm homicide.

MARK IT RED, MAKE IT SAFE

Medical waste menace puts civic workers at risk

SHRADDHA AK
BENGALURU, DHNS

The city discards nearly nine lakh sanitary pads every day, most of which end up mixed with dry waste. This exposes over 22,500 informal wastepickers to infection, indignity, and the loss of recyclable material.

The problem began with a 2016 campaign urging citizens not to mix sanitary pads, diapers, and medical waste with wet waste. However, segregation remains poor, with many areas still dumping unsegregated waste in blackspots, often because collectors refuse to accept it.

"How are we supposed to work? We do not have any gear and must segregate it with our bare hands. The waste reeks, carries maggots and even human excreta," said Navneeth K, a waste collector from RR Nagar.

In Agra Lake area, collection supervisor Raju said his team strives to keep waste segregated, but many citizens continue to mix hazardous items.

"All we ask is that people discard broken glassware, needles, diapers, sanitary pads and tampons in separate paper bags and mark them red, so we know they are hazardous," he said. His team, equipped with gloves and masks, still faces challenges as mixed waste leads to recyclables being lost.

Kumuda, an operator from JP Nagar (Ward 177), recalled being pricked by a used needle earlier this year. "My hand got infected, and I needed three months of treatment to recover," she said.

She explained that residents often wrap hazardous waste in small newspaper pieces or plastic bags, which tear and emit foul odours. "If people use paper bags and keep such waste separate from wet and dry waste, it will help immensely," she said.

Nalini Shekar, an activist with Hasiru Dala, said citizens often evade responsibility. "Many say segregation is pointless because it gets mixed later. But that does not matter. Change starts with one person," she said.

To tackle this, Saamuhika Shakti collective launched the #MarkItRed campaign, led by comedian and content creator Shraddha Jain, urging people to wrap sanitary and medical waste in paper, mark it with a red cross, and dispose of it responsibly. The campaign video went viral with over 1.3 million views, sparking discussions and awareness on wastepickers' safety. Following the campaign, JP Nagar centres reported nearly 60% of hazardous waste being disposed of correctly — a significant step toward safer, more respectful waste management.

The #MarkItRed campaign calls on citizens to wrap sanitary or hazardous waste in paper and mark it with a red cross for safe disposal.

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◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Nrupatunga University: Inauguration of the new academic building; Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, Dr MC Sudhakar, Rizwan Arshad; Nrupatunga Road, 11 am.

BM Sri Foundation: 'Literature and Medical World' endowment lecture; Dr C Nandini, Bairamangala Ramegowda; NR Colony; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Rangadarshan Pradarshana Kala Kendra: Odanadi Bandhu CGK-75; 'Dala', drama performance; Guests: KV Nagarajamurthy, SG Siddaramaiah, direction by Mico Shivashankar; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 6.45 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.6°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	62%
Sunset (Oct 14)	6:02 pm
Sunrise (Oct 15)	6:10 am
Moonrise	11:57 pm
Moonset	11:22 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

CELEBRATIONS JUST GOT BIGGER.

WITH GST BENEFITS
+
*LIMITED PERIOD FESTIVE OFFERS

	PRICE REDUCTION OF UP TO#	NOW STARTING AT#	ADDITIONAL FESTIVE OFFERS OF UP TO*
FRONX	₹1 12 600	₹6 84 900	₹1 00 000
GRAND VITARA	₹1 07 000	₹10 76 500	₹1 54 100 + 5 Year Extended Warranty
BALENO	₹ 86 100	₹5 98 900	₹47 500
IGNIS	₹ 71 300	₹ 5 35 100	₹ 67 500
INVICTO	₹ 61 700	₹ 24 97 400	₹ 75 000
XL6	₹ 52 000	₹ 11 52 300	₹ 35 000
JIMNY	₹ 51 900	₹ 12 31 500	₹ 75 000

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For detailed T&C kindly visit your nearest dealership. Features and accessories shown may not be a part of the standard fitment. Black glass shade on the vehicle is due to the lighting effect. Images used are for illustration purposes only. All offers are brought to you by NEXA dealers only. Offers and features may vary subject to the model and variant purchased. *The mentioned offers include "Consumer Offer + Booking offer + Exchange Bonus + Rural offer", and may vary from city to city. Please contact nearby dealership for more details. Maruti Suzuki reserves the right to withdraw offers at any point in time without any advance notice. All offers are applicable till 23rd October '25 or till stocks last. Maruti Suzuki Smart Finance is now available pan India. Maruti Suzuki Subscribe is available only in selected cities. ##Offers include consumer offer, exchange bonus and institutional or rural offers (wherever applicable) on select models/variants. Finance is at the sole discretion of the financer by selected finance partners. #Prices and savings mentioned above are for select variants and may vary across cities/ variants.

Hunt on for man from Tamil Nadu who threatened to 'blow up' homes of CM, DCM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru police are hunting for a man from Tamil Nadu who allegedly sent emails threatening to blow up the residences of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

The emails were sent from aarna.ashwinshekher@outlook.com to cm.kar@nic.in and dkshivakumar1@gmail.com at 4.23 pm on October 11.

Aarna Ashwin Shekher, the purported sender, claimed that "four RDX devices and (several) IEDs" had been planted in both residences and would be "detonated remotely".

Taking no chances, police authorities deployed the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS), along with canine squads, to comb through the premises. The threats were later declared a hoax, according to police.

The inspector from the Halasuru Gate police station registered a suo motu case against Shekher under sections 351(4) (criminal intimidation) and 353(1)(b) (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), police added.

"We have gathered information about the miscreant who hails from Tamil Nadu and has been repeatedly sending such threats. Efforts are on to nab him," a senior officer from the Halasuru Gate police station said.

The cybercrime police will pursue the case from now, the officer added.

On September 19, the High Court of Karnataka had received a similar threat email, followed by the Israeli consulate in Bengaluru three days later.

Both threats were declared a hoax after thorough searches.

Vendors display 'dummy' cracker boxes to bypass restrictions by authorities. DH PHOTO/SHRADDHA AK

Cracker sales gain spark as Deepavali nears

SHRADDHA A K
BENGALURU, DHNS

For most people, Deepavali is unimaginable without fireworks — they define the sights, sounds and spirit of the festival.

Though buying crackers is a festive ritual, concerns persist over the use of green crackers and the environmental impact of regular ones.

A check across the city by *DH* found that several sellers continue to stock crackers without the "green" label. While sales are still modest, demand for all kinds of fireworks is gradually picking up, with many customers placing bulk orders.

Despite the Supreme Court's restriction on bursting crackers through the year, except during Deepavali, many shops in the city continue to see steady sales.

Madan Kumar of Sri Chakravarthy Traders said prices have risen by 6 to 8% this year due to the recent GST revision, which has pushed up raw material costs.

A vendor in Sultanpet attributed the price rise to the restriction on traditional crackers. "Green crackers are costlier because they are smokeless and soundless," he said.

At Vaishnavi Crackers in Yelahanka, sales have risen slightly and are expected to increase in the coming days.

However, many vendors find ways to bypass restrictions. Several display only "dummy boxes" in their shops and store the actual stock elsewhere. "We are not allowed to keep crackers here, so we store them in a godown. Once an order is placed, we deliver them," a salesperson said.

Vendors are also selling supposed "green crackers" at unusually low prices. When questioned, one admitted that most of them were not genuine. "Do you think manufacturers will dump old stock just because it is banned? Ninety per cent of the green crackers are fake — they carry the seal, but still emit smoke and noise," he said.

CORRIGENDUM

Due to typographical error in the Auction Sale Notice published on 06/10/2025 it's notified that WP/22247/2025 be read as WP/22247/2022. All other Terms/Conditions and Schedule of Properties remain unchanged.

The Court Commissioner, Appointed by the Honorable High Court Karnataka, Principal Bench at Bengaluru.

Bengaluru 06-10-2025

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction for leasing of Parcel Space, Parking & Advertising and Miscellaneous contracts by Bengaluru Division.

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders for E-Auctions on the following dates:

1. Parking & Pay and Use : 21.10.2025, 23.10.2025
2. Parcel : 14.10.2025, 24.10.2025
3. Advertising ATM & Misc : 14.10.2025, 21.10.2025, 23.10.2025, 24.10.2025, 27.10.2025, 28.10.2025, 29.10.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Bengaluru

PUB/540/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

South East Central Railway

Tender Notice for Outsourcing Work

TEDER NO: TRD-BSP-287-25-26 Dated: 08.10.2025

Work: Out sourcing of Non power block activities of TRD organization of Bilaspur Division for period of 24 months **Tender Value** : ₹ 1,63,68,604.78, **EMD**: ₹ 2,31,900/- **Submission of Tender:** up to 15.00 hrs on 31.10.2025

For further details/ purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact Office of the Sr. DEE/ TRD/SECR/ Bilaspur or refer/download tender document which is available on our **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divil. Electrical Engineer (TRD)
CPR/10/FL/372 S.E.C.Railway, Bilaspur

South East Central Railway @secrail

JHARKHAND URJA SANCHARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN No.:U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC)
Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002
Fax No.:0651-2400123 (E-mail:cetjusnl@gmail.com)

e-TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. – 467/PR/ JUSNL/ 2025-26

E-tender in two parts i.e. Technical (Part-I) and Financial (Part – II) is invited from reputed, capable, experienced and financially sound firm for the following works : -

Name of work	Design, Engineering, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of Line Differential Protection for underground 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station, Irba (Sikidiri) to Sikidiri Switchyard (SRHP) transmission line on turnkey basis
Estimated cost (Rs.)	Rs. 1,36,83,967.00 (including GST)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,73,700.00 On line mode
Completion Period	90 Days
e-Tender fee	Rs. 10,000.00 + 18% GST On line mode.
Start Date & Time of Download the Tender Documents	15.10.2025 at 11:00 AM
Start Date and time of upload of BID	15.10.2025 at 11:00 AM
Pre-bid meeting	22.10.2025 at 12:00 PM
End date and time of upload of BID	06.11.2025 upto 04:00 PM
BID Opening date for technical part	07.11.2025 at 04:00 PM
BID Opening date for price part	Will be communicated
Procurement Officer and address for communication	General Manager, C&M (NWBP), 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi – 834002

1. e-Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned **(6202162568)** during office hours.
2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.
3. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

PR 364048 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(25-26).D

Sd/-
General Manager C&M (NWBP)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For & on behalf of President of India, Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Chakradharpur, South Eastern Railway invites E-Tenders for the under mentioned works. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

(1) **Tender Notice Number: MECHCKP-25-26-16, Date: 10.10.2025. Name of work:** Housekeeping and Sanitation of Railway colony of Chakradharpur and operation of Solid Waste Management plant of Chakradharpur for a period of 2 years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 6,20,75,590.33. **Bid Security:** ₹ 4,60,400. **Cost of tender form:** ₹ 10,000. **Date and time of closing of tender:** 15.00 hrs. of 31.10.2025.

(2) **Tender Notice Number: MECHCKP-25-26-17, Date: 10.10.2025. Name of work:** Hiring of 02 numbers of Private Oil Tanker of 12 KL capacity at RCD /DLS/Tatanagar for en-route/doorstep refueling of diesel locomotives in Tata yard and nearby area like Adityapur, Kandra, Sini & also Dangoaposi area round the clock for a period of one year. **Tender Value:** ₹ 38,21,513.04. **Bid Security:** ₹ 76,400. **Cost of tender form:** Nil. **Date and time of closing of tender:** 15.00 hrs. of 03.11.2025. **Place of opening of tender:** Office of the Sr. DME/ Chakradharpur, South Eastern Railway (for both tender). Tenders can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/ bidders must have Class-III digital signature certificate & must be registered under IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **(PR-711)**

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Corrigendum Notice-1

Corrigendum No. 1 issued & published by Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/C against Open Tender Notice No. S&T/Works/08-2024-R1 on 11.10.25. **Items Modified** : Code - Schedule-B Item- 3. Field Name : Item Qty, Existing Value - 10, Modified Value - 12. **New Items Added :** S. No. 1, Document Description-Updated Tender Document, File Name : Tender Documentpidspaswithhighlight.pdf **New Items** - Schedule F- Defect Liability Support. S. no. 3, Item Desc : For remaining stations including OCC & BCC Comprehensive Defect Liability Period Support of Entire PIDS- PAS system after expiry of warranty. Item Code - a, Item Qty - 3, Qty Unit - Year, Unit Rate - Rs.1865918.28, Basic Value: Rs. 5597754.84, Escl. (%): 0.00. Amount : Rs. 5597754.84. Schedule F- Defect Liability Support. S. no 4, Item Desc : Contract Spares @3% of Schedule A and B (Break up of items in Bidding Form XXIV). Item Code - 4, Item Qty - 1, Qty Unit - Lot, Unit Rate - Rs. 2371930.02, Basic Value : Rs. 2371930.02, Escl. (%) - 0.00, Amount: Rs. 2371930.02, **Items Deleted :** S.No 1, Code - Schedule – F Item - 2, Item Description - Contract Spares @3% of Schedule A and B (Break up of items in Bidding Form XXIV). S.No 2, Code Schedule – F Item - 1, Item Description: For remaining stations including OCC & BCC Comprehensive Defect Liability Period Support of Entire PIDS- PAS system after expiry of warranty. **Tender Documents** : S.No. 1, File Name : PIDSPASTender_1.pdf, Documents Description : Tender Document. **Revised Value :** In S. No. 1 **Advertised Value (INR)** should be read as **Rs. 161967756.86** instead of existing value of Rs. 161367145.00 and S. No. 2, **Earnest Money (INR)** should be read as **Rs. 959800.00** instead of existing value of Rs. 956800.00. The tender will remain unchanged and details to be viewed on **www.ireps.gov.in**

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BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only))

BESCOM invites tender against Enquiry No.: **BESCOM/2025-26/IND0173(BESCOM/2025-26 BCP-1624)** through KPP portal from eligible bidders for **"Supply of (a) Double Pole TC set for 25/63/100kVA 4/5 Star Rated Transformer on PSCC Pole - 9 Mtr Long, 300 Kg WL-GI without H Frame-1000 Sets. (b) Double Pole TC set for 100/300kVA 4/5Star Rated Transformer on PSCC Pole - 9 Mtr Long, 300 Kg WL -GI with H Frame-500 Sets.**
Bid documents will be available from **15.10.2025 onwards.** Last date for submission of Bids : **15.11.2025 upto 17:15 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document : **17.11.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.**
The tender can be obtained through KPP Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with KPPP helpdesk contact Numbers : 91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail at support@eprochelpdesk.com

Sd/-
Chief General Manager(Ele.), Procurement, 2nd Floor, Corporate Office, BESCOM, K. R. Cricle, Bangalore - 560 001.

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No.: KREIS/EE-3/TENDER-19/2025-26 Date: **13.10.2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Repairs and additional Improvement works in Bagalkot District in the jurisdiction of KREIS** (Tender Indent No. **728, 729, 730, 731 and 732**) through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **10.10.2025 and 13.10.2025.** The last date for receipt of tender is **27.10.2025 and 29.10.2025** respectively. The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-procurement portal only.

DIPR/CP/YC/3235/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer-3
KREIS

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KNNL, MRBCC DIV-4, Navalgund. Phone No: 08380-229248,
Fax No: 08380-229017 E-mail: knnl.mrbcc4@gmail.com

No:KNNL/MRBC-4/PB/Bennihall.C.A.Consultancy Tender/2025-26/693 Date: 13-10-2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

The tender has invited through KPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** in Two Cover System, under the head of Account 4701 vide Indent No - **KNNL/2025-26/SE0287**, from eligible contractors by the under signed, the **Executive Engineer, KNNL, MRBCC Div No: 4 Navalgund,** On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, 4th Floor, Coffee Board Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001.
Approximate Work of Amount: Rs. 100.00 Lakhs. (Including GST), EMD Amount: Rs. 1.69 Lakhs
Issue and Submission of e-Tender Documents:
1) Last Date for Tender Quarries / Clarification if any are to be sent not later than **on 24-10-2025 till 4.00 PM** (the e-mail id for sending queries is **knnl.mrbcc4@gmail.com.**) For more details visit e-Procurement Portal Website at **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**. OR Undersigned in all working days during office hours on Mobile No: **9663137692. 2)** Last Date for Submission of Completed e-Tendering Documents is **28-10-2025 upto 5.00 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Tender i.e., (Technical Bid, Cover-I) is on **30-10-2025 at 11.00 AM. 4)** Financial Bid will be Opened After Approval of Technical Bid.
The officer competent to accept the tender shall have the right to reject / cancel any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Further information about electronic tendering can be had from **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

DIPR/Belagavi/759/Adverto/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KNNL, MRBCC Division No.4, Navalgund.

Karnataka Government
Social Welfare Department, Chitradurga
Govt Science College opp. B.D.Road Chitradurga 577501
Ph No: 08194-295954 e-mail : ddswdcta@gmail.com

No: DD/SWD/CTA/Foodtender/CR-01/2025-26
Date: 09-10-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Supplying food items and other essential materials to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric hostels being conducted in 06 taluks of Chitradurga district under the Social Welfare Department a tender has been invited at the district level through e-procurement for the year 2025-26. The details of the said tender are as follows.
1) Tender Number: SWD/2025-26/IND0347 Date: 09-10-2025
2) Tender Estimated Amount: 29,75,00,000/-
3) Tender Form Uploading Starting Date: 09-10-2025
4) Tender Pre Bid Meeting Date: 28-10-2025 / 11.00 am
5) Samples Submitting Last Date: 04-11-2025 / 5.00 pm
6) Tender Form Uploading Last Date: 07-11-2025 / 5.00 pm
7) Tender Technical Bid Opening Date: 10-11-2025 / 11.00 pm
8) Tender Financial Bid Opening Date: 12-11-2025 / 11.00 pm
9) Tender EMD Amount Rs. 29,75,000/-

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/414/2025-26

Sd/- Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, Chitradurga.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
(EAST)-1	BWSSB/EE(EAST)-1/PB/2755/2025-26 Date: 09.10.2025	Rs.80,28,350/- / Rs.1,60,600/-	21.10.2025 upto 4:00 PM	23.10.2025 after 5:00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (EAST)-1

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/3234/SSC/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works.

(1) No: CEE/Tr(O)Z/TKR/SEE/AEE-2/2025-26/7722-23 Date: 10.10.2025

Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TR(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/ Bid Enq-0061/ Dtd: 26.09.2025. For Replacement of deteriorated GI flats, MS flats and CI pipes & GI pipes and strengthening of earthing system at 220KV R/S Operation Division Hiriyur on Total Turnkey Percentage Tender Basis in Transmission (Operations) Zone, Tumakuru.

(2) No.: CEE/Tr(O)Z/TKR/SEE/AEE-2/2025-26/7724-25 Date: 10.10.2025

Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TR(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/ Bid Enq-0060/ Dtd: 22.09.2025. Combined Package on Total Turnkey Percentage Tender Basis for: **Work A:** Supply & Laying of 1x1000 Sqmm UG Cable for 11kV Bus Coupler at 66/11kV Sub-station Rampura. **Work B:** Supply & Laying of 1x1000 Sqmm UG Cable for 11kV Bus Coupler at 66/11kV Sub-station B G Kere. **Work C:** Supply & Laying of 1x1000 Sqmm UG Cable from the LV side of transformer-2 to 11kV Bank-2 at 66/11kV Sub-station Hangal.

The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E-Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **17.10.2025** and other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL,"Prasarana Bhavana", 1st Floor, Tumakuru 66/11kV S/s Premises, Tumakuru-572 103.

An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU
Telephone: +91-8431186388, E-mail: sabvmcri@gmail.com

No:SABVMCRI/E-TENDER/ECT/10/2025-26 Dated: 13-10-2025
TENDER No: DME/2024-25/IND1769

TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tenders is invited for interested eligible firms in accordance with KTPP Act for **Supply & Installation of ECT MACHINE, RETROGRADE INTRARENAL SURGY (RIRS) CONTROL UNIT, SPINE CRANIOTOMY INSTRUMENTS, LASER CYSTRO URETHROSCOPE for Affiliated Hospitals of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College & Research Institute, Bengaluru.**
1) Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document is **from 11-10-2025. 2)** Last Date for Online Quires: **15-10-2025 upto 5.30 PM. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of e-Tender in e-Procurement Portal: **18-10-2025 upto 5.30 PM. 4)** Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids: **21-10-2025 at 10.30 AM.**
For further details search in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and if any further details are required in this regard. Please contact the Director Cum Dean / Assistant Administrator of this institute during working days.

DIPR/CP/3248/Adverto/2025-26

Sd/- Director Cum Dean SABVMCRI, Bengaluru.

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION
9th Floor, Vishweshwaraih Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560001. Telephone: 080-22866302/22867172
Fax: 080-22863576/22861665 Email: sedmatech@gmail.com
Website: www.municipaladmn.gov.in

No: 1720697 DMA/DEV/5/2025 Date: 13.10.2025

SHORT TERM EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NOTIFICATION

On be half of the Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA), Karnataka, The Superintendent Engineer, Directorate of Municipal Administration invites EOI for the following:

Sl. No.	Description
1	**Expression Of Interest (EOI) for the work of Water Body Rejuvenations under Amruth-2.0 Scheme.**

Calender of Events: Last date for receipt of EOI Proposals in sealed cover: **18.10.2025, 5.00 P.M.**
Note: For detailed Specifications, any additional information and clarifications, may be contact Superintendent Engineer, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Podium Block, 2nd Floor, V.V.Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-01 during the office hours.
Contact No: 080-22861611
Email Address: sedmatech@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/3229/SPAN COM/2025-26

Sd/-
Superintendent Engineer, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Bangalore

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Zilla Panchayath Kolar-563101
Office of the Executive Engineer Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Kolar-563101
Phone No: 08152-222570, e-mail: eepredkolar1@gmail.com
No: 08/2025-26 Date: 08.10.2025

Short term Two Cover System Tender CALL-2
(Through KPPP e-Procurment KW-IV)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Act 2000 item rate tenders were invited in two cover system (SBD) in the forms KW-4 through KPPP e-procurement from authorized PWD contractors registered in appropriate class for KW-4 **Indent No: RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT14451/CALL-2 & RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT14445/CALL-2 Amount put to tender is Rs. 324.59 lakhs & Rs. 381.34 lakhs respectively.** (Malur Taluk 02 Road Works) The contractor's are requested for participate in KPP Portal e-Tender through GOK **website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Prebid meeting schedule **dt: 18.10.2025 at 11.00 AM** in the undersigned office last date for submission of tender application and uploading tender forms through website from **dt: 13.10.2025 to 21.10.2025 up to 4.00pm** and date of opening of technical bids in KPP portal on **date: 23.10.2025 at 11.00 am** The eligible technically qualified contractors financial bids opening **date: 27.10.2025.** The notification can be obtained from the KPPP e-procurement portal. Further details can be had from the above office on all working days in working hours. KPP Portal helpline No's for tender clarification with respect uploading and downloading you can **contact: +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777, +91-9240214000, +91-9240214001**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PREDivision, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:310/KSMCA/2025-26

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(IMA & other KPIDFE scam cases)
3rd & 4th Floor, Podium Block, V.V Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001
Ph: 080-29565353/29604556 | email: splocaima21@gmail.com

No:SPLOCA/ADM/PROC-1/09/2025-26 Date: 13.10.2025

PUBLICATION

Subject: Invitation of EOI for Socio Economic and Behavioral Analysis of Ponzi and Pyramid Financial Frauds.

With reference to the above subject, EOI is invited from interested firms to carry out a survey for Socio Economic and Behavioral Analysis of Ponzi and Pyramid Financial Frauds and submitting a detailed report with regard to the financial scams.
Schedule of Events:

1.	Commencement of download of e-Tender form from website- **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home**	**14.10.2025**
2.	Last date for queries on or before	**21.10.2025 till 5.00 pm**
3.	Date and Time of Pre-Bid meeting	**23.10.2025 at 12.00 noon**
4.	Last Date for submission of EOI e-procurement platform on or before	**29.10.2025 till 5.00 pm**
5.	Opening of EOI	**31.10.2025 at 12.00 noon**

For any query contact: O/o SPLOCA, IMA & other KPID cases, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Towers, Bengaluru-560001. e-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com
Details regarding Tender, terms and conditions are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home**

DIPR/CP/3228/CCL/2025-26

Sd/- Assistant Commissioner, Special Officer and Competent Authority, IMA and other KPID Scam Cases, Bengaluru

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com

No: EEPWDGDG PB- 1: 3 4 :Diferent Head-2025-26/2903
Dated : 13-10-2025

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division,Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of 08 work of total amount of Rs **136.10** Lakh (Min estimate amount **Rs. 02.00** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **50.00**Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW-1 and 2 through **http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in/**
Work Indent No : Part-1 : 23834/Call-2Category-1
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **18-10-2025** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **23-10-2025** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid Date : **24-10-2025**
Work Indent No : Part-2 : 27814, 21562/Call-4, 28055/Cat-2A ,28031 26365 ,28104 and 28157 (a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **30-10-2025** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **03-11-2025** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid Date : **04-11-2025**
GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/329/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division, Gadag.

Fearing arrest in child sex abuse case, man ends life

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 65-year-old man, accused in a child sexual abuse case, died after allegedly consuming toilet cleaner at his home in Kengeri, fearing arrest, police said on Monday.

The deceased, Ambarish, an employee of a private company, was accused of sexually harassing a nine-year-old girl in his neighbourhood on October 8.

Following a complaint from the child's parents, police had booked him under provisions of the POCSO Act. Fearing arrest, Ambarish reportedly consumed the chemical at his residence. Relatives later found him unconscious and rushed him to a hospital, where he died on Monday morning, the Kengeri police said.

Worker dies after fall from 6th floor

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 35-year-old construction worker from Assam died after falling from the sixth floor of a building under construction on Uttarahalli Main Road on Monday, in what police believe was an accident.

The deceased, Prabeen Deb Burman, had come to Bengaluru about three months ago to work as a centering (framework) labourer. He was employed at the site of a private builder in Kengeri.

Around 11 am, while engaged in centering work on the sixth floor, Burman reportedly slipped and fell, sustaining severe injuries. He was rushed to a nearby private hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, police said.

Burman's family has accused the site owner and contractor of negligence, alleging that they failed to provide adequate safety measures for workers.

The Kengeri police have registered a case

Female artiste accuses Prakash Raj of non-payment for work

BENGALURU, DHNS

Udupi-based artiste Megha Shetty on Monday accused actor and producer Prakash Raj of not paying her for work done for the Nirdigantha theatre festival held in March. Raj, however, countered her and said the allegation was not true.

Megha posted on social media that she had worked on the creatives and art installations for the event in Mangaluru and Dharwad. She said she had brought down her quote from Rs 17.8 lakh to Rs 13.5 lakh, and eventually received a total of Rs 15 lakh — Rs 7 lakh through bank transfer and Rs 8 lakh in cash. "They still owe me Rs 2 lakh as my fee," she said.

Nirdigantha, working from a campus near Mysuru, is a theatre incubation centre that fosters training and experimentation.

"Because of mismanagement on their part and overspending, the budget went up by Rs 2.5 lakh. At the end of the event, the total expenditure was Rs 15.5 lakh, Rs 2 lakh more than what was budgeted," Megha told *DH*.

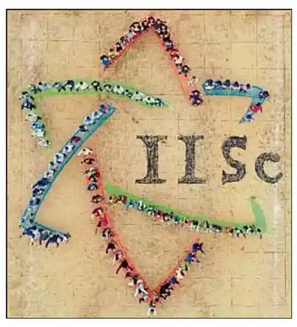
"I am left without any payment for about 70 days of work and I have paid Rs 50,000 from my pocket. Despite repeated follow-ups, I have not received any clarity or payment," she said.

Raj said Megha had every right to tell her story, but disputed her claim over payments. "We have been working with senior artistes, like Shashidhar Adapa. This year, we wanted to give space to youngsters. We saw Megha's work on Instagram and found it interesting." he said. The budget was initially Rs 7 lakh but Nirdigantha agreed to go up to Rs 9 lakh. As work progressed, Megha came up with more ideas which Nirdigantha found interesting, he explained.

"She gave a final budget of Rs 13.5 lakh. Once the event ended and we did the final payments, we realised that we had paid her Rs 15 lakh — Rs 1.5 lakh more. When we asked her to return the excess amount, she said we had overshot the budget and demanded extra payment," he added.

Ecosystem summit at IISc discusses critical mineral supply chain in India

BENGALURU, DHNS



The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines, hosted an ecosystem summit on 'Building a resilient critical mineral supply chain' on Monday at the Centre for Brain Research.

The event brought together Piyush Goyal, Secretary of the Ministry of Mines, along with officials from relevant government bodies, industry associations, large private and public organisations, startups and expert faculty from the IISc and other research institutes.

In his keynote speech, IISc Emeritus Professor S Subramanian emphasised the importance of researching and developing technology for mining critical minerals in India. This focus is particularly significant in light of the Pentagon's recent initiative to acquire $1 billion worth of critical minerals.

Goyal discussed Indian critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, titanium, graphite and rare earth elements. These minerals are essential for batteries, semiconductors, heating, hydrogen production, defence and telecommunications.

He, however, noted the risks associated with supply chains and emphasised the need for developing domestic teams for mineral exploration as well as securing mineral supplies from abroad.

Shivkumar Kalyanaraman, CEO of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, and Satyam Suwas, Dean of Mechanical Sciences, delivered a virtual address, stressing the necessity for India to develop its own technologies. They asserted that this independence is crucial for creating a future that significantly differs from the past.

Anupam Agnihotri, Director of JNARDDC, highlighted India's commitment to reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. He emphasised the goal of decoupling emissions growth from economic growth and achieving 50% of the country's cumulative electric power from non-fossil fuel-based energy sources by 2030. Additionally, he discussed India's long-term goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2070.

India's strategic global quest for critical minerals includes initiatives such as Mineral Security Partnerships, Intergovernmental Forums, Supply Chain Resilience Initiatives, the Clean Energy Ministerial, Bilateral Agreements and Critical Mineral Security Partnerships.

The summit concluded with a technical session led by IISc faculty and industry members, during which they discussed about rare earth elements.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
BENGALURU DIVISION

Re-Engagement of Retired Staff
Applications invited from retired railway employees for contractual re-engagement

Railway Board's Letter No. E(NG)11/2024/RG-4(9) dated 15.10.2024. The re-engagement scheme will remain valid upto 14.10.2026 or upto posts are filled by regular selections, whichever is earlier.

Categories of Posts

Engineering Department:
SSE (P. Way & Works), JE, Sr. Tech (Welder & Blacksmith)

Electrical Genl Department:
JE (AC, TL & P), Sr. Tech (Power, TLD & AC)

Electrical TRS Department:
SSE TRS

Electrical TRO Department:
CLI, CRC, PRC, TLC

Electrical TRD Department:
SSE TRD

Electrical Ministerial Department:
Office Superintendent

Mechanical C&W Department: Tech - I (C&W), Tech-II (C&W), Tech - III (C&W)

Mechanical DSL Shed Department:
Tech - I & III (M-Wing), Tech - III (E-Wing)

Mechanical Ministerial Department:
Office Superintendent

Operating Department:
Goods Train Manager, Station Master, Section Controller, Points man

Commercial Department:
CS, CCCTS

MDDTI:
Loco Instructor

Who Can Apply

- Retired Railway employees only
- 'Good' grading in last 5 APARs
- Medically fit for the post
- Not retired under LARGESS
- Not removed/dismissed Under DAR
- Maximum Age Limit - 65 years

Screening & Selection

Applications will be screened by a committee. Selection depends on Eligibility, Suitability and Medical fitness.

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How to Apply

Online: Applicant can submit application through the Google Form available at
https://forms.gle/tqzSQ6GspRs4jwvu8

Offline: application available at
https://swr.indianrailways.gov.in
->About Us > Divisions > Bangalore Division > Personnel Branch > Notifications

Apply to
Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer,
Divisional Railway Manager's Office,
Bengaluru - 560023. Contact: 9731666622

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Deve Gowda discharged from hospital, advised rest for a week

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former prime minister H D Deve Gowda was discharged from hospital on Monday and was advised rest for a week.

Following Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) issues, he was admitted to a private hospital on October 6.

After treating him at the intensive care unit (ICU) for three days, he had been shifted to the ward.

Updating on his health after being discharged, Gowda said on 'X' that his health had stabilised.

'Will resume duties'

"By god's grace, my health has stabilised. I am grateful to doctors at Manipal Hospital for treating me. I thank everybody who prayed for my recovery, and to friends and leaders who came to see me. I will resume my public duties soon," he wrote.

Visiting Gowda after the discharge, JD(S) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy said, "There were some variations in his health in the last few days, he is doing fine now. We should thank doctors of Manipal hospital and all Kannadigas for their prayers".

On Monday, leaders, including senior legislator Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, visited the former PM at his residence.

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Sad Demise

Shri N N Upadhyay
President (2008-2009) of Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce - BCIC

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the sad demise of Shri N N Upadhyay on October 10, 2025

His immense contribution to BCIC shall always be remembered

May his noble soul rest in eternal peace

Deeply mourned by
Office Bearers, Management Committee, Secretariat and Members
Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC)

SC bins plea for SIT probe on electoral roll 'manipulation' in Mahadevapura

Says petitioner at liberty to move the Election Commission

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a PIL for a direction to constitute a special investigation team headed by a former judge, to inquire into the allegations of large-scale electoral roll manipulation in Mahadevapura Assembly constituency in Bengaluru Central and other affected constituencies in the country.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi declined to entertain the plea filed a Supreme Court advocate and Congress party member, Rohit Pandey.

"We are not inclined to entertain the writ petition which is purportedly filed in public interest," the bench said. The court, however, said the petitioner was at liberty to raise the issue with the Election Commission (EC), if deemed appropriate.

The counsel for the petitioner contended a representation was made before the EC, but it has not been considered and no action was taken. The court, however, dismissed the plea, and asked the petitioner to avail of appropriate remedies under the law.

In the plea, the petitioner cited the allegations made by Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi in a press conference on August 7, 2025. The plea said, what is at stake here is not the outcome of a single electoral contest, but the integrity and credibility of the electoral roll itself, the bedrock upon which the entire democratic process stands.

"When the electoral roll is corrupted by wrongful deletions and fraudulent insertions, the right to vote ceases to be equally accessible to all citizens, undermining the constitutional promise of universal adult suffrage," it said.

Direction sought to EC

The plea also sought a direction to the Election Commission that no further revision or finalisation of electoral rolls would be undertaken until compliance with the court's directions and completion of an independent audit of the rolls.

It also asked the court to frame and issue binding guidelines to the EC to ensure transparency, accountability, and integrity in the preparation, maintenance, and publication of electoral rolls, including mechanisms for detection and prevention of duplicate or fictitious entries.

The plea also sought a direction to the EC to publish electoral rolls in accessible, machine-readable and OCR-compliant formats to enable meaningful verification, audit and public scrutiny.

The petitioner pointed out the present PIL was prompted by serious allegations of electoral roll manipulation as observed in the Mahadevapura Assembly constituency, part of the Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha seat in Karnataka.

The allegations made by Rahul Gandhi concerned the manipulation of thousands of legitimate voters' names and the inclusion of fictitious or duplicate entries, allegedly with the involvement of political operatives and local officials.

"The material disclosed in the press conference includes extracts from the electoral roll, showing identical names in multiple polling parts; and entries linked to non-existent or commercial addresses and other forms of manipulation. Independent citizen verification reportedly confirmed the bogus and duplicate entries," it claimed.

Such large-scale tampering of the electoral roll, if established, strikes at the foundation of the constitutional mandate of "one person, one vote" under Articles 325 and 326, dilutes the value of lawful votes, and violates the principles of equality and due process, the plea added.

Raju Talikoti

Dharwad Rangayana director, actor Raju Talikoti dead

DHARWAD, DHNS: Veteran theatre actor and comedian and Dharwad Rangayana director Rajesab (Raju) Talikoti died of heart attack at the KMC Hospital at Manipal in Udupi on Monday evening.

He was 60 and is survived by actor-wife Prema, two sons and three daughters.

Raju was in Mangaluru for the shooting of a film. He suffered a heart attack on Sunday evening and was immediately shifted to the hospital.

He didn't respond to treatment and passed away on Monday evening, said his son Bharat.

The last rites will be performed at Chikkasindgi in Sindgi taluk of Vijayapura district, according to family sources.

Raju joined the theater as a child artiste at the age of seven through Khasgateshwar Natya Sangha owned by his father Maktumsab Yenkanchi (Talikoti).

He has played several roles in various dramas besides having worked as a comedian in over 35 Kannada movies.

His role as a drunkard in the audio cassette 'Kaliyugada Kuduka' has been very popular and the same play has been staged for over 40,000 times across the world.

He has been honoured with several prestigious awards, including Karnataka Rajyotsava award.

Recognising his service to the theatre field for over four decades, the government had appointed him as the director of Dharwad Rangayana in August last year.

Law sought to curb attacks on ex-servicemen

BENGALURU, DHNS: Retired Indian Air Force (IAF) officer Shivalingayya urged the Union government to formulate a law to prevent attacks against former military personnel.

Speaking to reporters at the BJP office, he said: "There was an assault on an ex-serviceman named Ramappa Lamani in Hubballi. There was an attack on colonel Kushwinder Singh and his son at Patiala by 4 police officers on March 13-14. Due to the Agniveer scheme, 75% army persons come out of the army at a young age. They are energetic and usually confront corruption."

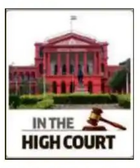
Stating that such confrontations can take a violent turn, Shivalingayya cited the example of Ramappa Lamani, who was allegedly assaulted by a constable and an Assistant Sub-Inspector. He said Ramappa was beaten up badly and was still in a hospital. Shivalingayya urged the government to provide a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to Ramappa and also take care of his medical expenditure.

LAMPS THAT LIGHT UP LIVES

A potter turns out earthen lamps for sale ahead of Deepavali at his house at Melakunda K village in Kalaburagi taluk on Monday. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

HC orders audit of Dharwad UAS, tells VC to stick to rules in appointing comptroller

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court has directed the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of Karnataka to conduct a financial audit of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad for the period 2018-2025.



Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed this order noticing that the accounts and expenses of UAS had been scrutinized by an incharge comptroller for nearly seven years (2018-2025) and the same "does not inspire confidence and, in fact, is suspicious".

The court directed the CAG to take action in terms of the applicable law if any irregularities are found during audit.

The petitioner Shivaputra M Honnalli, who joined service in March 1994, was promoted as deputy comptroller in March 2013.

The petitioner had been working as incharge comptroller at the UAS from June 2, 2018.

He contended that there had been a consistent attempt to dislodge him from this post and this was his third writ petition.

Honnalli challenged the government order dated September 6, 2025 appointing Pooja Doddamani, chief accountant in PWD, Dharwad, in his place.

It was argued on behalf of the petitioner that under section 31(9)(a) of the Universities of Agricultural Sciences Act, a comptroller must be a full-time officer appointed by the vice-chancellor (VC) and thus, the government appointing Pooja Doddamani was illegal.

After perusing the provisions under the statute, the court said there was no panel recommended by the VC to the board of management in the appointment of Pooja.

Similarly, the petitioner too was not a qualified person, the court observed.

"It is rather shocking that the petitioner who was appointed as incharge comptroller, which could not have been for more than six months at the most, and even if a comptroller is appointed by following the procedure under clause (a) of subsection (9) of Section 31, the tenure of the comptroller being not more than four years, the petitioner continued to discharge his role as a comptroller from 2018 till now, for nearly seven years. The above aspect does not inspire confidence and, in fact, is suspicious," Justice Govindaraj said.

He said the petitioner had been challenging any other appointment made by the state, apparently with the active support of the VC.

The court said, "It is not permissible for the VC to appoint a comptroller in such a manner as done and the post of the comptroller being an essential and important post at the university dealing with all financial aspects, I am of the considered opinion that there is required to be an audit, made by the CAG into the affairs of the university from 2018 till date, to ascertain if there is any financial mismanagement and if any such financial mismanagement is found, to take appropriate action".

The court has directed the VC to follow the procedure for the appointment as prescribed in the statute and said that until then Pooja shall discharge her duties as incharge comptroller, strictly in accordance with law.

NEET: 200 more med seats added in 3rd round counselling in K'taka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Students who appeared for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) this year, seem lucky as the National Medical Commission (NMC) is still adding MBBS seats in Karnataka.

In a latest communication, the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) has approved an additional 200 medical seats for Karnataka, allocating 50 seats each to four private medical colleges - Subbaiah Medical College, Shivamogga; BGS Global Institute of Medical Sciences at Nagarur (near Dasanapura), Bengaluru; Sridevi Medical College, Tumakuru and AJ Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangaluru.

For the third round, 377 medical seats were already available and now 200 additional seats have been included. Candidates can enter their options until 8 am on October 15.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has said that candidates can re-register their options for admission to these colleges.

KEA Executive Director H Prasanna advised candidates to check the fee structure of these colleges before entering their options.

"Even candidates who have already been allotted and admitted to medical colleges in the first and second rounds can also participate in this round if they wish. Such candidates can enter their new options for these colleges from 11 am on October 15 to 8 am on October 16," Prasanna said.

Since these candidates have already paid the admission fees, they do not need to pay any caution deposit. However, those who have not yet been allotted a seat must pay the required caution deposit fee before participating.

"If a candidate is allotted a seat in this round, admission to that seat will be compulsory," Prasanna added.

"Seats that become vacant or get cancelled during the process will also be included in this round. Therefore, even if some seats do not appear as available in the seat matrix, candidates are still advised to include those colleges while entering their options," he said.

Norms for deputation of med officers for higher studies issued

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government has issued guidelines for deputation of medical officers under inservice quota for higher studies and super specialty courses.

Currently, 'Karnataka Civil Services Rules,' 'Karnataka Government Service (Deputation and Study Leave for Group-A Officers) Rules, 2008,' and 'Karnataka Postgraduate Medical and Dental Degree and Diploma Courses Selection and Admission Regulations, 2006' are being followed. However, due to inconsistencies, new guidelines have been issued.

Candidates planning to pursue higher education will receive sponsorship on the fees, salary during the course and other service benefits. If they fail to receive scholarship, candidates will have to pursue with prior unpaid leave permission and their own money.

For the candidate to be eligible for under-service quota, the candidate requires a total seven years of service completion.

General duty medical officers (GDMOs) must have completed at least six years of rural service before becoming eligible for full-time higher education appointments under the service quota or deputation.

For scholarship and other benefits, the candidate must pursue specialties that the government is interested in appointing.

The candidates must sign a bond to work with the government for 10 years or till retirement age.

Officers appointed for study must serve in the same clinical departments assigned for study and not be appointed elsewhere or to unrelated specialty posts during their tenure.

No salary for 3 months, library supervisor ends life

KALABURAGI, DHNS: Frustrated with not having received her salary for last three months, the library supervisor of Malkhed village in Sedam taluk of the district ended her life on Monday.

Bhagyavathi Aggimath (40), who hanged herself from the ceiling fan, explained her reason for taking the extreme step in a suicide note, police said. Bhagyavathi is survived by her husband, a daughter and a son.

Bhagyavathi's relatives and members of a few organisations assembled in front of the library and demanded compensation for her bereaved family. The demonstration disrupted traffic in the village.

COST EFFECTIVE

Now, a tractor in size & ease of a bike to help small farmers

Quad vehicle reaches corners, interiors for tilling, deweeding

NRUPATHUNGA S K
SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

A city-based startup has designed the first India-made four-wheeler quad bike priced around Rs 2.5 lakh to help small and marginal farmers who can't afford to buy tractors.

Vishwanath K S, founder and director of Farmland Industries India Private Limited and engineering graduate from Shivamogga, has sold over 100 such bikes to small farmers in the state in the last four years. Now, he is getting orders from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

Vishwanath told *DH* that earlier, quad bikes were imported from China and Japan.

"I made up my mind to create a quad bike, while I was doing my engineering degree in 2015. I had created three-wheeler bikes for the army and films. Later, I thought of manufacturing four-wheeler bikes exclusively for small farmers." He said the first bike was sold to a farmer in Shivamogga in 2016.

The quad vehicle, developed by Shivamogga-based engineer Vishwanath K S, has a detachable trolley capable of carrying 500 to 800 kg. The model is expected to ease labour shortages and make fertiliser and manure application convenient.

"I had manufactured it in my house itself. I borrowed money from my friends and parents, initially. Later, I started taking money from customers as advance, manufactured the bike and sold the product to them. This year, IIT Madras has bought 1% share in my company by paying Rs 10 lakh. UAS Dharwad has given a grant of Rs 10 lakh," the entrepreneur said.

The quad bike can easily navigate in plantations and perform essential farm tasks, where tractors and tillers are difficult to reach.

Equipped with a trolley attachment capable of carrying 500 to 800 kg, the quad bike is expected to ease labour shortages and make application of fertilisers and manure easy for farmers.

Conventional tractors and tillers cost Rs 8 lakh to Rs 10 lakh and Vishwanath's invention gives farmers the cost advantage.

Farmers usually spend Rs 3,000 per acre to remove weeds from their fields. but the quad bike performs the task at a much lesser cost. It can easily reach the corners and interiors of agriculture fields.

Vishwanath said last year, the startup saw a business of nearly Rs 1 crore by selling around 40 vehicles. It plans to set up production units in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, creating employment opportunities for people. Over 10 workers presently work out of the unit on Sagar Road in Shivamogga.

DH Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

Margadarsi Chits (Karnataka) Pvt. Ltd.
Registered Office, Bengaluru
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF CHANGE OF REGISTERED OFFICE ADDRESS
This notice is hereby given to all the public concerned, that the Registered Office of MARGADARSI CHITS (KARNATAKA) PVT. LTD. has been shifted to #212, 3rd Floor, Opp. to Gate 9 of Palace Grounds, Bellary Main Road, Sadashiva Nagar, Bengaluru - 560080, effective from 11th October 2025.
All communications should be addressed to the above said new office location only.
For Margadarsi Chits (Karnataka) Pvt. Ltd.
P Lakshmana Rao
Director

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PERSONAL
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DOCUMENTS LOST
I, A.Krishna Reddy S/o Muni Reddy Aged about 83 years R/at No. 1499, Suggappa Layout 1st Main, 1st Cross, Gandhi Nagara Extention, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-64.
I, have lost the Original Documents.
1) Sale Deed date: 28-03-2011 it is stored as Document No. GBD-1-04999-2010-11 Registered before Sub-Registere, Gauribidanur executed by the Y.Ramesh S/o Chikkarayappa, in favour me A.Krishna Reddy S/o Muni Reddy.
2) Sale Deed datcd:21/12/2009, it is stored as Document No. GBD-1-02362-2009-10 Registered before Sub-Registerar,, Gauribidanur executed by the Anitha W/o Radhakrishna in favour of due Y.Ramesh S/o Chikkayarappa.
3) Sale Deed dated:28/03/2008, it is stored as Document No. GBD-1-04088-2007-08 Registered before Sub-Registerar, Gauribidanur executed by the Venkata Lakshamma W/o Late Ramaiah in favour of due Anitha W/o Radhakrishna.
The above mentioned 3 Original Sale Deeds lost by me, dated:01-08-2025 timing 12.00PM in front of K.S.R.T.C Bus stand, Gowribidanur.
In case if found by anyone, please contact Phone No. 9611808610, Krishna Reddy.
Ramachandra Reddy
Advocate- 9731266661
Change of Name
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Faiyaz , residing No16/12 1st Cross, B.T.M. Layout, Old Gurappanapalya, Bengaluru-560029, have changed our minor daughter's name from SHAHISTA SHEREEN K.F. to BUSHRA SHEREEN F.F. vide affidavit dated 30-09-2011 before notary B.K. Rameshappa, Bengaluru.
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Deepika Jinendra Jain, W/o Jinendra Kumar Jain, residing at No 6/1, G No. 10th Street, Halasuru, Bengaluru-560 008, hereby state and declare that my names Deepika Jinendra Jain, Deepika .B, Deepika are one and the same and belong to me only, vide affidavit dated 13-10-2025, sworn before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru
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100 kg of sandalwood seized from house

HANUR (CHAMARAJANAGAR DISTRICT), DHNS: The Forest Department officials seized 100 kg of sandalwood illegally stored in a house at Mangala village in the taluk on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, the department officials of the Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary buffer zone conducted a raid on the house and found sandalwood pieces stored in four bags.

The sandalwood pieces were also hidden in an almirah. The officials took a woman, Devamma, who was at the house during the raid, into custody.

During the inquiry, it was found that the prime suspect, who is at large, has been involved in storing the sandalwood pieces illegally and selling them for several years. Search is on to nab him, the officials said.

Can't take suo motu action against RSS, says HM

Will look into the issue if a complaint is made

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Monday that the Home Department cannot initiate suo motu action against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), but assured that it would look into the issue if there is a complaint.

Speaking to reporters, Parameshwara said: "Whenever they (RSS) seek permission, the local police will provide permission, looking at the law and order situation. If the government decides not to permit and impose a ban, they will do it."

When asked about concerns that RSS Pracharaks should not be allowed to move around with Lathis, the home minister said: "If they forward it to our department and seek our opinion, we will tell all this."

Parameshwara refuted claims by the BJP that he had participated in an ABVP event.

"I have not participated. Who said so? When there was a procession, was it wrong if I folded my hands? I saluted freedom fighter Rani Abbakka. Is that wrong?? If they say that's wrong, I don't know what to say. Let them say whatever they want, I have clarified that itself, will clarify today too," he said.

'BJP toy of RSS'

Meanwhile, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge doubled down on his letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, where he sought a ban on RSS activities on government premises.

"How can an organisation that had opposed the Constitution and claimed that they need Manu Smruthi be patriots? How can an organisation that cannot register as an NGO be patriotic? Why does Mohan Bhagawat (RSS Sarsanghchalak) need so much security equivalent to the home minister and the ministry of external affairs?" he asked.

Slamming the BJP, Priyank said, "The BJP is a toy of the RSS. The BJP is nothing without the RSS, and the RSS is zero without religion. I am not opposed to Hinduism, but I oppose RSS. There's no equality in that ideology, and it doesn't permit the Constitution. Without the Constitution, we aren't there."

BJP leaders put up posters to slam Priyank

The BJP leaders displayed posters in Kalaburagi, condemning district In-charge Minister Priyank Kharge for his letter to the government seeking a ban on RSS activities in government and aided schools and public places, reports DHNS from Kalaburagi. They asted posters in various parts of the city.

"Even during the Nehru-Indira Gandhi period, nothing could be done against RSS. Yet Priyank Kharge has made such statement. The youths have come together and are pasting posters. All patriots have participated in this", the BJP leaders said.

A poster hailing the RSS was pasted by the BJP on a roadside wall in Kalaburagi on Monday. DH PHOTO

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah hosts a banquet for his Cabinet colleagues at his official residence in Bengaluru on Monday. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and other ministers were present.

CM hosts dinner banquet, reviews departments

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a banquet for his Cabinet colleagues on Monday evening where he is said to have informally taken stock of his government's performance.

Siddaramaiah hosted ministers at Kaveri, his official residence.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar attended Siddaramaiah's banquet, making it a show of unity amid their power struggle. The banquet also came amid speculation over a Cabinet reshuffle.

"CM had casual discussions with ministers on their portfolios," Labour Minister Santosh Lad said. Another minister said CM asked about progress in various departments, including implementation of programmes announced in the budget.

According to Transport & Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy, Siddaramaiah discussed the upcoming elections to five new municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the Zilla-Taluk Panchayats. "We're expecting GBA polls before March next year," Reddy said.

Reddy also ruled out buzz that Siddaramaiah discussed Cabinet reshuffle over dinner.

Expert panel to help revamp govt film & television institute

BENGALURU, DHNS: Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar on Monday announced the constitution of an expert committee, involving experts from film industry, to upgrade the country's first cinematography and sound recording & engineering polytechnic in Hesaraghatta.

Following the decline in student enrolment for several years now, Sudhakar visited and reviewed the status of the Government Film and Television Institute.

He observed the lack of technical infrastructure and asked officials to submit a report to facilitate immediate procurement of equipment.

Now, the institute offers only two diploma courses – sound engineering and cinematography. He proposed launching skill-based programmes under one roof, including acting, costume design, sound recording, cinematography, and make-up along with artificial intelligence and gaming courses.

"As this is a pre-independence educational institution, it houses valuable old cameras and sound recording equipment. We must preserve them in a museum," he said.

The course in cinematography and sound recording & engineering was originally introduced in 1943 at Jayachamarajendra Government Polytechnic. In 1996, this course was renamed and relocated to the institute in Hesaraghatta, which is spread across 25 acres.

Have asked CS to examine TN model on RSS, says Siddu

BAGALKOT, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday that he had received RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge's letter seeking a ban on RSS activities on government land and that he had directed the chief secretary to examine the Tamil Nadu model on the issue.

"The Tamil Nadu government has banned RSS activities on government premises. I have asked the Chief Secretary to study if the procedure followed by the Stalin government can be implemented in the state. We will take a decision based on the CS report," Siddaramaiah told reporters on the sidelines of an all-religion convention at Bandigani Mutt near Rabkavi-Banhatti.

On the November revolution claims, Siddaramaiah said, "No such kranti will ever happen. They are all baseless."

Replying to a query about the dinner meeting, the chief minister said, "I have been hosting dinner parties regularly and they all have a 'common menu' There is nothing special about the dinner meeting on Monday."

While addressing the convention, Siddaramaiah referred to an attempt to hurl shoes at the Chief Justice of India and said "an advocate belonging to Sanatana Dharma" was involved in the act and questioned whether such behaviour should be tolerated. He said such actions must be denounced unequivocally.

Adopt balanced, consultative approach on RSS: Pejawar seer

UDUPI, DHNS: Pejawar mutt seer Vishwaprasanna Theertha Swami has urged the Karnataka government to adopt a "balanced and consultative" approach while considering opinions related to the proposed ban on RSS activities on government premises.

Responding to minister Priyank Kharge's remarks suggesting action against the RSS, the Swamiji said that everyone has the right to express their opinion. However, he emphasised that the chief minister should consult all stakeholders before arriving at a decision.

"The RSS, true to its name, has been serving the nation selflessly for the last hundred years. We must recognise the contribution of RSS to the country, especially during natural calamities. No one can deny its service to society," he said. In any system, mistakes are natural, but they must be discussed and corrected through constructive review, the seer opined.

THE KITTUR UTSAV BECKONS

Artistes in folk attires gather for an event to light the torch for the upcoming Kittur Utsav, in front of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Priyank not fit to be called a Dalit, says Chalavadi

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Monday slammed RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge, stating that Priyank was "not fit to be called a Dalit."

Narayanaswamy, also a Dalit, took severe exception to Priyank's letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking a ban on RSS activities on government premises. Speaking to reporters, he said: "Don't speak cheaply about RSS for your publicity and to get coverage in the front pages of newspapers. Dalits across the state are distraught due to Congress rule. While claiming to have given 42,000 crore for Dalits, you have ensured that not even a single paisa has reached them. You aren't capable of speaking about this."

Chalavadi Narayanaswamy

The LoP in the Council was referring to the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan Act (SCSP/TSP), according to which, Rs 42,018 crore has been allocated for schemes and programmes related to the Dalit and Adivasi communities.

Referring to AICC president and Priyank's father Mallikarjun Kharge, Narayanaswamy said: "Mallikarjun Kharge isn't like you. He was calm by nature and used to take everyone along. He didn't speak against the RSS even once. But why did you get this madness??"

Dharmasthala SIT seeks help of IISc prof for DNA analysis

MANGALURU, DHNS

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burial case in Dharmasthala has approached a professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), who is an expert in environmental DNA analysis, to assist in the investigation.

Sources in SIT told *DH* that as part of this process, the team visited a local dental clinic on Sunday to collect molar teeth samples of the locals in the area. "These samples will help the environmental DNA expert to analyse and establish possible links to the skeletal remains found at Spot No 6 and also near Spot No 11," the source said.

The team is actively working to trace the origins of the skeletal remains and is expected to receive the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports on the skeletal remains exhumed shortly.

The SIT on Monday questioned the complainant witness's wife and sister to gather more details on related financial transactions. Additionally, Mahesh Shetty Thimarody's daughter was questioned, as she had recorded a video related to the case.

The SIT also questioned police personnel who had worked at Dharmasthala police station during the burial of unnatural death bodies.

Kusumavathi, mother of Sowjanya and others had submitted a complaint seeking an inquiry into the deaths of Padmalatha, Sowjanya, and others. However, sources said the team cannot initiate any inquiry into these cases without the court's permission. "We have already clarified this, but despite that, they continue to press for an investigation," the source added.

PDO falls into Lokayukta net

▸ **MADDUR (MANDYA DISTRICT), DHNS:** A Panchayat Development Officer (PDO), Sachin, fell into a Lokayukta trap while receiving a bribe of Rs 5,000 to get a khata done on Monday. He was serving as the PDO at Taggahalli. Based on a complaint by Shivalingaiah of Bekkalale village, the Lokayukta police, led by SP Suresh Babu, conducted a raid and trapped Sachin.

Day after 'guarantees affecting devpt' comment, Deshpande does U-turn

▸ **DANDELI (UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT), DHNS:** A day after 'mocking' the guarantee schemes, veteran Congress MLA R V Deshpande softened his stance saying that he did not oppose the guarantee schemes, but hailing the pro-people governance by CM Siddaramaiah.

"My statements about guarantees during a meeting in Dandeli was misconstrued. I said Siddaramaiah was a true leader fighting for the poor, and giving good administration by announcing guarantees," Deshpande said in a statement on Monday.

"My purpose was not to speak against guarantee schemes, but to laud Siddaramaiah's pro-people stance. I did not criticise him, but appreciated his policies. I did not say guarantees slowed down the development. My statements were misinterpreted," he said.

On Sunday, he was quoted saying that guarantees had caused a financial burden.

Postcard campaign for HC circuit bench in Mangaluru

MANGALURU, DHNS: Bar Associations in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts will launch a postcard campaign on October 23, demanding the establishment of a circuit bench of the Karnataka High Court in Mangaluru.

Over 5,000 printed postcards were disbursed at the end of a meeting of presidents of bar associations in DK and Udupi districts at the Mangaluru Bar Association Hall in on Monday. Postcards will also be sent to the Karnataka High Court Chief Justice, the chief minister and the law minister among others, Mangalore Bar Association (MBA) president H V Raghavendra said.

The members passed a resolution declaring that a campaign committee with members drawn from all bar associations in DK and Udupi districts should be set up by November 15. Different sub-committees were formed to create awareness about the demand for a circuit bench in Mangaluru, motivating gram panchayats to pass resolutions.

National Commission for Women redresses 109 grievances on Day One of public hearing

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Commission for Women (NCW), along with the state department of women and child development, kicked off the two-day 'Rashtriya Mahila Aayog- Aapke Dwar' (NCW at Your Doorstep) public hearing or Mahila Jan Sunwai here on Monday. The event aims to provide speedy, on-the-spot resolution for women's grievances from Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural and Tumakuru districts.

Vijaya Rahatkar, chairperson of National Commission for Women, inaugurates a public hearing 'Rashtriya Mahila Aayog-Aapke Dwar' in Bengaluru on Monday. Nagalakshmi Chowdhary, chairperson of the state women's commission, Bengaluru city police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh and others were present.

Presiding over the inaugural session, NCW chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar affirmed the Commission's commitment to women's safety, respect and empowerment. Pointing to difficulties women faced in reaching NCW headquarters, Vijaya said, "We decided to come to their doorsteps. We will not conduct this public hearing only in the capital; we will conduct it at divisional level too".

The commission brought 292 registered cases to the hearing, with problems ranging from domestic violence to sexual harassment being heard. On Monday alone, 109 cases were heard by the full commission, which was present to handle various forums simultaneously. Vijaya acknowledged the role of the police, thanking them for their "excellent cooperation".

Vijaya is on a three-day visit to hold review meetings with senior administrative and police officers. Beyond grievance redressal, NCW is also promoting digital empowerment through YASHODA AI programme for women, besides hosting 'Campus Calling' programme to raise gender sensitivity among youngsters.

State women commission chairperson Nagalakshmi Chowdhary, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh and other senior officials were present. NCW urged women in and around Bengaluru to participate in the ongoing hearing and utilise the opportunity for direct redressal.

RGUHS lays down guidelines for women's safety

Move aimed at fostering a safe and inclusive environment for women

BENGALURU, DHNS

The gruesome rape of a medical student in West Bengal has prompted the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) to issue a set of guidelines to all its affiliated colleges to ensure the safety and security of their respective female students and staff.

Installation of closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras, ensuring illumination along the corridors, alongside creating a protective and inclusive environment are among the guidelines laid down by the varsity for the colleges.

"Compliance with these guidelines is mandatory. Campus authorities at the college will have to regularly monitor and report on the measures taken to secure women's safety," said RGUHS Vice-Chancellor Dr Bhagavan B C.

It was vital that colleges act to secure the safety of all students, and particularly women, at the earliest, said the RGUHS VC. "We have issued a circular to all affiliated colleges instructing them to adhere to the prescribed safety guidelines and take necessary measures to improve security on their respective campuses. Each college must also have in place a grievance redressal mechanism for female students and staff, besides being equipped with the necessary security infrastructure. Let us work collectively to create a culture of safety, dignity and trust across all our institutions," said Dr Bhagavan.

The norms

- Comprehensive CCTV surveillance on campuses. Cameras must be installed at all places to ensure the entire campus is under supervision
- Ensuring corridors and dead ends are always illuminated
- Ensuring respectful and fair treatment of both female students and staff. Any form of harassment, discrimination or misconduct will not be tolerated
- Creating a safe and protective environment conducive to growth, and one that promotes equality on the campus
- Putting a robust grievance redressal system replete with a reporting mechanism in place
- Organising awareness programmes on women's safety regularly
- A committee headed the head of the college, and including the warden of the women's hostel, the registrar and other designated offices is to be formed, and must periodically review measures taken to guarantee safety of women '
- RGUHS's Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) committee must remain active to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for everyone

Special MEMU trains to Mysuru

BENGALURU, DHNS: The following eight-coach MEMU special trains will run between KSR Bengaluru and Ashokapuram (Mysuru) to manage the extra rush of passengers during weekends and the Deepavali festival.

These trains will operate on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until October 31.

Train number 06213 will depart from KSR Bengaluru at 12.15 pm and arrive at Ashokapuram at 3.40 pm.

Train number 06214 will depart from Ashokapuram at 4.10 pm and reach KSR Bengaluru at 8 pm.

The stoppages include Krishnadevaraya Halt, Nayandahalli, Jnanabharathi Halt, Kengeri, Hejjala, Bidadi, Ketohalli, Ramanagara, Channapatna, Shettihalli, Nidaghatta Halt, Maddur, Hanakere, Mandya, Yeliyur, Byadarahalli, Pandavapura, Srirangapatna, Naganahalli, Mysuru, Chamarajapuram and Ashokapuram.

Karnataka aims 75% cut in disaster damage by 2030

State unveils roadmap for disaster risk reduction

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka wants to achieve a 75% decrease in natural disaster-related damages and losses by 2030, a plan that includes developing policies to insure public and private properties from extreme weather events, according to a new roadmap released on Monday.

The Karnataka State Disaster Risk Reduction (KSDRR) Roadmap 2025-30 was released by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

Between 2015 and 2021, Karnataka suffered damages and losses to the tune of Rs 1.22 lakh crore due to natural disasters, according to the report.

"Karnataka experiences disasters of various scales putting 61.10 million people at risk. Karnataka's geographic and topographical contexts make it extremely vulnerable to droughts, cyclones/ hailstorms, floods, fire, lightning and heat waves," the report states.

While about 80% of Karnataka's geographical area is prone to droughts with many taluks witnessing a dry spell for over three consecutive weeks, the state also saw floods at a frequency of 2-8 years during the 2005-2021 period.

Between 2015 and 2021, Karnataka suffered damages and losses to the tune of Rs 1.22 lakh crore due to natural disasters, according to a report by the Revenue department. DH FILE PHOTO

As per the report, 22% of the state's geography is prone to moderate earthquake risk. Further, 24% of the state's area is prone to the cyclone. "Heavy winds, landslides in the Western Ghats account for 30% and 320 km of the coastline is prone to storm surge, cyclones, sea erosion and Tsunami threat," the report says.

The roadmap comprises short term (2025-26), medium term (2025-28) and long term (2025-30) priorities. This includes "risk coverage" in the form of insurance especially in disaster-prone areas.

Under the roadmap, various government departments have been asked to work towards risk identification, reduction, preparedness, financial protection and resilient recovery. For example, the education department will be required to prepare a school-level disaster management plan.

Green tax proposed

The Karnataka State Disaster Risk Reduction (KSDRR) Roadmap 2025-30 recommends imposing 'green tax' on transport vehicles that have completed between 7 and 15 years from date of registration. This is listed under medium term (2025-28) priority for the transport department. The roadmap recommends tax exemption for alternate fuel or battery-operated vehicles.

KSRTC to operate 2,500 extra buses for Deepavali

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will operate 2,500 extra buses from Bengaluru to various cities in Karnataka and other states from October 17 to 20 in view of Deepavali festival.

Later, special buses will be operated from various cities to Bengaluru on October 22 and 26.

Special buses will operate from Kempegowda Bus Station (Majestic) to Dharmasthala, Kukke Subrahmanya, Shivamogga, Hassan, Mangaluru, Kundapur, Sringeri, Horanadu, Davangere, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Gokarna, Sirsi, Karwar, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Ballari, Koppal, Yadgir, Bidar, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Hyderabad and other places.

Special buses from Mysuru Road Bus Station will be operated to Mysuru, Hunsur, Piriyapatna, Virajpet, Kushalanagar and Madikeri.

All premier special buses to Madurai, Kumbakonam, Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Palakkad, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Khozikode and other places in Tamil Nadu and Kerala will be operated from Shanthinagar bus stand.

Sleeper bus to Gadag

KSRTC is introducing a Pallakki non-AC sleeper bus service between Bengaluru and Gadag via Tumakuru, Chitradurga, Davangere, Ranebennur and Shirahatti, starting October 17.

The bus will depart from Majestic at 10 pm and reach Gadag at 6 am. The return journey will have same timings. Currently, Bengaluru-Gadag route doesn't have any AC or even sleeper bus service.

Speaking to *DH* earlier, former India cricketer Sunil Joshi had asked for resuming the Volvo bus service (Airavat) between Bengaluru and Gadag, which he said was cancelled without any reason. Originally from Gadag, Joshi is settled in Bengaluru.

Priyanga M, MD, North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), had said that the Bengaluru-Gadag route would soon be served with Pallakki (non-AC sleeper) buses.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at many places over South Interior and North Interior Karnataka and some places over Coastal Karnataka

Forecast Oct 14: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	30.2	17.6	00
Bidar	32	18.2	00
Vijayapura	31	19.4	00
Dharwad	31.6	18.6	00
Haveri	30.6	19.2	00
Kalaburagi	33.2	22	00
Raichur	31.8	20.4	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.6	23.6	00
Karwar	34.6	24.6	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	32.9	23.6	18.2

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	32	19.8	00
Bengaluru	29.7	20.4	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	30.3	19	00
Davangere	30	19	00
Hassan	33.5	19	00
Mysuru	30.2	20	02
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	29	18.4	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	NA	19	00
Kolkata	33	24.6	34
Mumbai	34.8	22.5	00
Chennai	31.4	25.8	0.2
Pune	32.4	18.8	00
Hyderabad	32.2	21.6	00
Th'puram	33.3	23.6	40

Lalbagh shaft, missing studies: Holes in tunnel plan

Tunnel, from Page 1

The committee was formed after the DPR was criticised as being shoddy and substandard due to copy-paste work. Other committee members included Vinod Shukla (tunnel expert), Major Ashwath Kumar B (road safety expert) and Madhava (retired chief engineer, Public Works Department).

In its 89-page report, submitted to the government a month later, the committee devoted nearly 50 pages to highlight as many as 121 shortcomings in the Rs 9.5 crore DPR. The concerns were raised after visiting the sites to assess the alignment, availability of land, constraints, traffic issues at entry and exit points, shaft locations, and various other.

Subsequently, the committee noted that B-SMILE complied with most of the concerns but went on to add that "bare minimum" geological and geotechnical investigations have been carried out during the preparation of the DPR as against the standard procedure. Based on the metro tunnelling experience in Bengaluru, it predicted surprises during execution. The committee also expects the cost of tunnelling could go up by about 10 to 15% to account for the risk involved in handling unforeseen conditions.

B S Prahallad, technical director of B-SMILE said his department has complied with most issues raised by the committee. "We have also undertaken geotechnical surveys but the concessionaire also carries the responsibility of undertaking similar studies before participating in the tender, which is a standard norm."

Environmentalist D T Devare, who accessed the committee's report under Right to Information (RTI) Act, stressed the government should drop the project going by the observations made in the report. He also wondered how the government could pass on the pre-tendering requirements such as preparation of detailed geological study to the concessionaire.

Hamas, Israel swap captives in big Gaza move

Gaza, From Page 1

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank rejoiced as buses carrying dozens of released prisoners from Ofer Prison arrived in Beitunia, near Ramallah, as Israel began releasing prisoners and detainees as part of the ceasefire deal.

For some Palestinians in Gaza, however, the relief was clouded by sadness over a war that has reduced much of the territory to rubble.

"There's nothing to be happy about," Saed Abu Aita, 44, said. "My two daughters were killed, my home was destroyed and my health has deteriorated."

The peace agreement Trump helped broker has left many unanswered questions over whether Hamas will disarm, and whether Israel will fully withdraw from the Gaza Strip.

High command, not MLAs' support, decides CM post: DKS

CM post, from Page 1

"The CM and I have said that we would follow whatever the party decides. There are things I can't discuss in the media," he added.

Shivakumar's loaded statement, came amid speculation that he will replace Siddaramaiah as the chief minister after the Congress government completes two and a half years next month in keeping with a power-sharing agreement.

It is widely believed that Siddaramaiah still enjoys the support of a large number of Congress MLAs. That is why some of his loyalists have said in the past that the party high command would have to go by the opinion of MLAs before deciding on changing the chief minister.

"Nobody can become the CM without MLAs' backing," Siddaramaiah said. "Only with the support of a majority of MLAs can one become the CM. Yes, the high command's blessings are also important," he said.

Shivakumar's statement also points to his confidence that the party high command would back him.

Explaining the process Congress has followed over the years, Home Minister G Parameshwara underlined that MLAs' opinions are necessary. "Once the party is elected to power, the opinion of MLAs is sought to pick the CM. The high command sends observers who take MLAs' opinions. The person who has the support of a majority of MLAs is made the CM. That is how Siddaramaiah became CM twice. That is the tradition," he said.

"Even now, tradition calls for MLAs' opinions to be sought," Parameshwara said. "But if the high command decides that MLAs' opinions aren't needed...well, that's why they are called the high command. We will support whoever the high command chooses," he said.

Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (admn), DGSTO, Mysuru

No. JCCT(Admn):DGSTO:E-tender/CR.01/FDA.5/2025-26 Dated:13.10.2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-tender notification inviting for procuring 16 No's. of Scavengers, 12 No's. of Security Guards & 01 No of Gardener on outsource basis to The Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (ADMIN), DGSTO, Mysuru and its subordinate offices. Hereby the department allows the eligible institutions to take the necessary informations required through the departmental official website http://ctax.kar.nic.in and Government website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Last date for submission of tender application: 21.10.2025.

Sd/- Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (Admin), DGSTO, Mysuru

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru- 560 001
Ph : 080-2558 6520 / 2558 9112 Fax : 080-2558 6321
Email: contact@kspcb.gov.in Website : https//kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

NO.PCB/317/SEO/MINES/EPH/2025-26/2894 Dated:13.10.2025

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Sri. Basanagouda Dyamanagouda Menasagi, has proposed to undertake Ordinary Sand Quarry project of production capacity 32,612.20 TPA on a total land Area of 9.26 Acres (Patta land) at Sy.Nos. 20/3A, 20/3B, 20/3C & 20/4 of Menasagi Village, Ron Taluk, Gadag District. This project proposal covered under cluster location as per Office Memorandum issued by the MoEF&CC, GoI vide No. F. No.L-11011/p175/2018-IA-II(M) dated:12.12.2018.

As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated: 14.09.2006 and Amendment dated: 01.12.2009, the project proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority and is required to go through the process of Environmental Public Hearing. As per the Terms of Reference (ToR) letter No.SEIAA 51MIN 2024 dated: 06.08.2024 issued by the SEIAA, Karnataka and request letter of the project proponent dated:04.06.2025 and the Environmental Officer, Regional Office, Gadag letter dated:29.09.2025 intimating the date, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the KSPCB.

The details of the project are as follows:

1.	**Name & Address of the Project Proponent:** Sri. Basanagouda D Menasagi, No. 234, Hullur Post, Ron Taluk, Gadag District – 582 209.
2.	**Location of the proposed Quarry Project : Sy. Nos. 20/3A, 20/3B, 20/3C & 20/4 of Menasagi Village, Ron Taluk, Gadag District.**
3.	**Details of proposed Project :** Proposed to undertake Ordinary Sand Quarry project of production capacity 32,612.20 TPA in the total land Area of 9.26 Acres.
4.	**Date, time and venue of Environmental Public Hearing: Date :** 14.11.2025 (Friday) **Time:** 11:30AM **Place:** Project site, Sy. Nos. 20/3A, 20/3B, 20/3C & 20/4 of Menasagi Village, Ron Taluk, Gadag District.
5.	**Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are:** (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Gadag District, Gadag. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Gadag District, Gadag. (c) District Industries Centre, Gadag District, Gadag. (d) Thasildar Office, Ron Taluk, Gadag District. (e) Office of the Deputy Director, Dept. of Mines Geology, Gadag. (f) Gram Panchayat Office, Menasagi Gram Panchayat, Ron Taluk. (g) Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Gadag (h) SEIAA Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 709, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560 001 (i) **HELP DESK,** Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No. 49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification to make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Gadag District, Gadag). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. **For details please visit our Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Member Secretary

KARNATAKA URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION LTD
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Nagarabhibriddhi Bhavan, # 22, 17th "F" Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560008. Phone: 080-25196124-129 Fax: 080-25196110 E-mail:info@kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/UWM/TEND/2025-26/20/2612 Date: 13.10.2025

E-PROCUREMENT INVITATION

KUIDFC invites tenders under NGT Environmental compensation fund and SBM (U) 2.0 fund for below mentioned project from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP Portal of GoK (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

Sl No	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (Excl. GST) Rs in Lakhs	Earnest Money Deposit Rs. in Lakhs
1	Construction of 9MLD SBR type Sewage Treatment Plant in **Challakere city** under SBM(U)-2.0 Fund & ULB Fund with 5 Years Operation & Maintenance (including 1 year Defect Liability Period) in DBOT model **(Call-2)**	**1568.00**	**16.00**

(1) Tender Publish Date: **14.10.2025. (2)** Pre-bid meeting Date & Time **18.10.2025 Time: 11:30 A.M. (3)** Last Date & Time for Bid submission **28.10.2025 Time: 5.30 P.M. (4)** Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid **30.10.2025 Time: 11.00 A.M. (5)** Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid **07.11.2025 Time: 11.00 A.M.** Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP Portal. Any further notification will be through KPP Portal and KUIDFC official website only.

DIPR/CP/3230/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, UWM-KUIDFC, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru - 560 017
(Phone: 080 25084184, 4156)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

Sl.No	Description	Details	
1	Name of work	Proposed modifications to the Power Electronics Lab in Solar Panel and Battery Laboratory at ISITE Campus, URSC, Marathahalli, Bengaluru – 560037	Civil works for installation of UPS and battery banks at main building basement URSC Campus, Bengaluru - 560017
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/21/2025-26, Dt. 08.10.2025	URSC/C&MG/C/M/22/2025-26, Dt. 13.10.2025
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 23.55 Lakhs	₹ 17.49 Lakhs
4	Tender Document details	E-Tender	
5	Period of completion	FIVE MONTHS	SIX MONTHS
6	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 47,100/- valid for 180 days	Rs. 34,980/- valid for 180 days
7	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From 09.30 hrs on 09.10.2025 to 23.59 hrs on 22.10.2025	From 09.30 hrs on 14.10.2025 to 23.59 hrs on 27.10.2025
8	Bid clarification	From 10.30 hrs on 09.10.2025 to 17.00 hrs on 24.10.2025	From 10.30 hrs on 14.10.2025 to 17.00 hrs on 28.10.2025
9	Last date of reply to Bid Clarification	Up to 17.00 hrs on 27.10.2025	Up to 17.00 hrs on 29.10.2025
10	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs on 29.10.2025	Up to 14.30 hrs on 31.10.2025
11	Due date and time of opening of tenders	14.30 hrs Onwards on 29.10.2025	14.30 hrs Onwards on 31.10.2025

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/-, Group Director (C&MG)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶಹಾಪುರ
ಜಿ: ಯಾದಗಿರಿ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ.
Website:www.shahapurcity.gov.in e-mail: itstaff_ulb_shahapur@yahoo.com,

ಕ್ರಸಂ/ನಸಶ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಜಾ.ಪ್ರ/2025–26/541 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.10.2025

ಇ–ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ–2000 ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ 2025–26 ಸಾಲಿನ ಅಮೃತ್ 2.0 ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅರ್ಹಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ/ಏಜೇನ್ಸಿರವರು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ www.kppp.karnatak.gov.in ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Name of works:Development of Bapugowda Nagar garden in Shahapur City Under Amrut 2.0 (Operation and Maintenance for a period 05 years) Indent Number: DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT49921. Estimate cast (in lakhs):65.92. EMD (in Rs):As per E-Portal.Work period: 06 Month.Class of contractor: Class 3 and Above.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.10.2025 2) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.10.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ 3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.10.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.15. ಘಂಟೆಗೆ 4) ವಿಳಾಸ: www.kppp.karnatak.gov.in

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/329/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.ಎ/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಶಹಾಪುರ

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಹಿರಿಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

LAC No.68/2023

ನಡುವೆ:

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ವಾದಿಗಳು

ಮತ್ತು:

ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರರು.

ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಗಳು

ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಗಳು

10. ಜಿ. ಕೃಷ್ಣ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ S/o ಜಿ. ಚಿನ್ನಪ್ಪ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ
12. ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ. ಚಿನ್ನಪ್ಪರೆಡ್ಡಿ S/o ಜಿ. ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿರೆಡ್ಡಿ
13. ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್, S/o ಆರ್. ನಾರಾಯಣಶೆಟ್ಟಿ.
14. ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಎಸ್. ಉಮಾ W/o ಎನ್. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ
15. ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಟಿ. ವೆಂಕಟೇಶಯ್ಯ S/o ತಿಮ್ಮಯ್ಯ.
21. ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಅಪರ್ಣಾದೇವಿ, W/o ರೋಶನ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್
24. ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಮುನಿಅಕ್ಕಯಮ್ಮ, W/o ಮುನಿಯಪ್ಪ
25. ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್.ಎಂ. ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ, S/o ಮನಿಸ್ವಾಮಿರೆಡ್ಡಿ.
27. ತಿಗಳ ರಘುನಾಥ ಬಾಬು ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಟಿ. ವೆಂಕಟರಾವ್
28. ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಕೇಶವಯ್ಯನಾಯ್ಡು
29. ಎಂ. ಸೋಮಶೇಖರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಮುತ್ತುರಾಯಪ್ಪ
30. ಗಂಗಯಲ್ಲಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಮುನಿಪೂಜಪ್ಪ
31. ಪಿ. ಮಗೇಶ್ವರಿ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಪಳನಿಸ್ವಾಮಿ
32. ಎ. ಸೋಮಶೇಖರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಮುತ್ತುರಾಯಪ್ಪ A.C. Chowdappa
33. ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿ. ಚೌಡಪ್ಪ S/o ಚಿಕ್ಕಗುಡಿಯಪ್ಪ.
34. ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ. ರಾಮಮೂರ್ತಿ
35. ಶ್ರೀ ಯರ್ರಪ್ಪ
36. ಶ್ರೀ ಸಂತೋಷ್ ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ರಾವ್,
37. ಶೈಲಶ್ರೀ
40. ಪ್ರಭಾ ಪಾಪ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ,
41. ಪಿ.ಜಿ. ಸುಜೀತ ಕುಮಾರ್,
45. ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ ಶತ್ರ,
46. ವಿಜಯ್. M.
47. ಪಾಂಡು ಜಿ. ನಾಯಕ್,
48. ನಾಗೇಶ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಸಿನ್ಹ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಮುದಾ ಸಿನ್ಹಾ
49. ಅಂಜನಿ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಶರ್ಮಾ.
50. ಬ್ರಹ್ಮ ಲಾಲ್ ಶಾ.
51. ಮನೋಜ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಶಾ.
52. ಅರ್ಚನ ತಿವಾರಿ & ಅಂಜು ಕುಮಾರಿ ತಿವಾರಿ.
53. ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಸಿಂಗ್.
54. ಬಿಂದು ಕುಮಾರ್ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯ
55. ಪಂಕಜ್ ಕುಮಾರ್.
56. ಕಾಮಕ್ಯ ನಾರಾಯಣ್ ಸಿಂಗ್.
57. ವಕೀಲ್ ಸಿಂಗ್.
58. ಅಶೋಕ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಶರ್ಮಾ.
59. ಪ್ರವೀಣ್ .ಎ.ಎಸ್.
60. ವಿಜಯ್ ಭಟ್.
61. ರಾಜೀವ್ ಪಾಪಟ್
62. ರಾಜೇಶ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಚೌರಾಸಿಯಾ.
63. ಆಶಾ ಕುಮಾರ.
64. ಅಕ್ಷತಾ ಎಂ.ಜಿ.
65. ಅಲ್ತಫಾ ಹುಸೇನ್ ನದಾಫ್.
66. ರಮೇಶ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ .ಪಿ.
67. ರಾಜ್ ಬಹದ್ದೂರ್ ಠಾಕೂರ್.
68. ಶಿಯೋನಾಥ್ ಠಾಕೂರ್.
69. ಜೋಸೇಫ್ .ಇ.ವೈ.
70. ಜೈ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ತಿವಾರಿ.
71. ಸುರೇಂದ್ರ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಶರ್ಮಾ.
72. ಆದಿಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ
73. ಅವಿನಾಶ್.ಜಿ.
74. ಮಂಜುಳ .ಸಿ.
75. ಲತಾ.ಸಿ.
76. ಪ್ರಸನ್ನ ಕುಮಾರ್ .ಸಿ.
77. ಸಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಾರದಮ್ಮ.
78. ಶಂಕರಪ್ಪ.
79. ಜಿ. ಸುರೇಶ್.
80. ಟಿ.ಎಂ. ಯಶೋಧ.
81. ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ರವಿ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್.
82. ಹರಿದರಂ. ಎ.
83. ಕುಸುಮ. ಎಂ.
84. ಹೇಮಂತ.ಬಿ.ಎ.
85. ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ್. ಎಸ್.
86. ಪರಶರಾಮ.
87. ಮುನಿವೆಂಕಟಪ್ಪ.
88. ಮಾದಯ್ಯನ & ಸೆಲ್ವಿ.
89. ಮಹೇಂದ್ರ ಕುಮಾರ್ .ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.
90. ಸುಧಾ ರಾಣಿ .ಬಿ.ಆರ್.
95. ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ.
96. ಲಿಂಗಣ್ಣ.
97. ಉಮಾದೇವಿ.
98. ದೀಕ್ಷಿತ್.
99. ದಿವ್ಯಾ.
101. ರತ್ನಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ನಾರಾಯಣ .ವಿ.
102. ಪುಟ್ಟಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಮುನಿರಾಜು
104. ಪಟ್ಟರಾಜು ಬಿನ್ ಪಟಾಲಪ್ಪ .ಪಿ.
105. ಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್. ಪಟಾಲಪ್ಪ.ಪಿ. ಇವರೆಲ್ಲರ ವಿಳಾಸ ಬ್ಯಾಲಕೆರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಹೆಸರಘಟ್ಟ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಶಿವಕೋಟೆ ಅಂಚೆ, ಯಲಹಂಕ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560089.
106. ಮಲ್ಲಮ್ಮ. R/at. 23, ಸದ್ಗುರು ನಿಲಯ, ಭರತ್ ನಗರ, (ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ಪಾಳ್ಯ) ವಿದ್ಯಾರಣ್ಯಪುರ ಪೋಸ್ಟ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560097.

ನೋಟೀಸ್.

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ, ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯುಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಯ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್ 130, ಬ್ಯಾಲಕೆರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಜಮೀನಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಕಲಂ 30,31(2)ರ ಅಡಿಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಈ ಘನ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ ಮಾಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣವನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ 31.10.2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಹಿರಿಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆ ದಿವಸ ನೀವುಗಳು ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪರ ವಕೀಲರ ಮೂಲಕವಾಗಲೀ ಹಾಜರಾಗತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಯಾರೇ, ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಗಳು ಗೈರು ಹಾಜರಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಪ್ರಕರಣವನ್ನು ಏಕಪಕ್ಷೀಯವಾಗಿ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. **13.10.2025 ದಿನದಂದು** ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಮೊಹರು ಮತ್ತು ಸಹಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಅಪ್ಪಣೆ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಏಲೇಖನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಹಿರಿಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ದಿನಾಂಕ:

ವಾದಿ ವಕೀಲರು:

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಜಿ ಹೆಗ್ಡೆ,
ವಕೀಲರು, ನಂ. 136,
ಸಿಂಗ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮೊದಲ ಮಹಡಿ,
8ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ, ತೆಂಗಿನಕಾಯಿ
ಅವೆನ್ಯೂ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560003.

Kerala school faces backlash over hijab ban

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

A school in Kerala's Kochi has found itself at the centre of a controversy after allegedly preventing a Class 8 student from wearing a hijab, citing a violation of the school's prescribed uniform policy.

The incident triggered unrest at St Rita's public school at Palluruthy, with a section of people trying to escalate tensions. The school declared holidays on Monday and Tuesday.

The student's parents told the media that their child was harassed by school authorities over the issue.

The school authorities said the girl, who had been attending in the normal school uniform until recently, arrived one day wearing a hijab. Her parents were informed that this was against the school's prescribed dress code. However, the student continued to wear the hijab, following which she was asked to sit in the conference room with a teacher. The parents later conveyed that the hijab was a non-negotiable part of their faith.

According to school principal Sister Heleena Alby, some people visited the campus and tried to stir unrest over the issue. As a precautionary measure, the school declared a two-day holiday, she said.

The student's parents said they would submit a representation to the government regarding the matter.

The school authorities maintained that all students and parents are informed at the time of admission about the uniform policy.

Another Malayalam film faces censor cut

THIRUVANATHAPURA, DHNS: The just-released Malayalam film *Private* underwent nine censor board cuts and edits, primarily to its dialogues.

The Central Board of Film Certification requested cuts to remarks such as 'Citizenship bill', 'Ramarajyam', and references to Hindi-speaking people. It demanded the changes, alleging that the movie promoted "anti-national and left extremism".

Last week, the films finally made it to the theatre after the edits were completed

Union minister Suresh Gopi's film *Janakai V v/s State of Kerala*, Mohanlal's *L2: Empuraan*, and Shane Nigam's movie *Haal* have faced censorship edits in recent months.

Interestingly, actor Indrans, who stars in *Private*, recently expressed his fear regarding the growing censorship affecting films.

India, Canada agree upon 'ambitious roadmap' to rebuild ties

Nations appear to be treating Khalistan issue with sensitivity

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and Canada on Monday agreed on a new roadmap to rebuild bilateral relations, moving on from the acrimony over the murder of a Khalistani Sikh extremist in the North American country.

The "ambitious roadmap" aims to advance "cooperation in various domains, including trade, investment, agriculture, science and technology, civil nuclear collaboration, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, and energy", said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar after he and Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand met in New Delhi.

In his opening remarks in the meeting, Jaishankar avoided directly referring to India's concerns over Khalistani Sikh extremists' secessionist campaign against India in Canada.

He, however, noted that National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and his Canadian counterpart, National Security and Intelligence Advisor Nathalie G Drouin, had met in New Delhi on September 18 in what was "an important first step" towards enhancing bilateral security cooperation.

Anand wrote on X that Canada and India were "pursuing a constructive and balanced partnership" grounded in the "ongoing law enforcement dialogue and growing economic partnership opportunities, including in the areas of energy, trade and AI".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Canada's Foreign Minister Anita Anand during a meeting in New Delhi. PTI

Ottawa is keen to continue dialogue between the law enforcement agencies of the two countries to address allegations of syndicates linked to India involved in criminal activities in the North American country.

Anand also called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and met Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

The joint statement issued after the Jaishankar-Anand meeting said the ministers recognised that in the context of ongoing global economic uncertainty and rising geopolitical tensions, a strong and resilient India-Canada bilateral relationship was essential.

"Reviving this partnership will not only create opportunities for enhanced economic cooperation but also help mitigate vulnerabilities arising from shifting global alliances, ensure more reliable supply chains, and reinforce strategic stability in an increasingly complex international environment," it added.

The ministers noted that the bilateral trade had reached $23.66 billion in 2024.

The bilateral relations hit a new low on September 18, 2023, when then Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau accused India of playing a role in the killing of Khalistani Sikh terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Ottawa in October 2024 accused New Delhi's envoy Sanjay Kumar Verma and his five colleagues of playing a role in the June 18, 2023, killing.

New Delhi withdrew Verma and its other diplomats from Canada.

Judicial magistrate can order voice sample for probe: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday said that despite the absence of explicit provisions in the CrPC, a judicial magistrate must be conceded the power to order a person to give a his voice sample for probe of a crime.

A bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran pointed out in Ritesh Sinha Vs State of Uttar Pradesh & Anr (2019) that the apex court had not spoken only of the accused and specifically employed the words "a person" consciously because the rule against self incrimination applied equally to any person — whether an accused or a witness.

It was also directed that till explicit provisions were incorporated in the CrPC, the judicial magistrate would be so empowered by virtue of the said judgment, it noted.

The issue was also pending with the government and, with the advent of the BNSS, had been specifically incorporated under Section 349, the bench pointed out.

The court allowed an appeal filed by Rahul Aggarwal against the Calcutta High Court's judgment, which set aside the judicial magistrate's order to a person to give a voice sample in a case of threatening a witness in a criminal case.

"We need not hence consider the question as to whether it is the CrPC or the BNSS which would apply to the present case. If it is the CrPC, the three-judge bench decision in Ritesh Sinha permits the same on the identical principle adopted by this court in Kathi Kalu Oghad (1961) to permit furnishing of handwriting, signature and finger impressions," it said.

"If it is the BNSS that is applicable, then there is a specific provision enabling such sampling," said the bench.

The court explained that the reasoning was also that mere furnishing of a sample of the fingerprint, signature, or handwriting would not incriminate the person as such.

Top court stresses fair process, orders CBI probe into Karur stampede

Sets up 3-member committee to monitor the investigation

NEW DELHI, DHNS

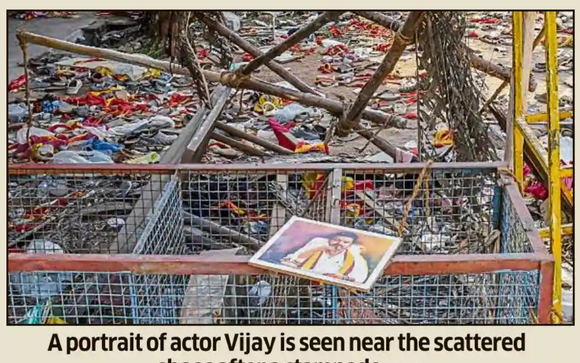
The Supreme Court on Monday ordered an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the stampede in Karur, during the rally of actor-turned-politician Vijay, which claimed the lives of 41 people and left over 100 others injured.

A bench of J K Maheshwari and N V Anjaria said the incident has wide ramifications in respect of the life of the citizens, and in this context, enforcing the fundamental rights of the families who lost their kith and kin is of utmost importance.

The court nominated former SC judge Justice Ajay Rastogi as head of a committee, comprising two IPS officers from Tamil Nadu but not native to the state, to monitor the probe.

"Looking at the fact that the issue involved certainly has a bearing on the fundamental rights of the citizens, and the incident, which has shaken the national conscience, deserves a fair and impartial investigation. As such, by way of an interim measure, a direction deserves to be issued to hand over the investigation to the CBI, which would lead to fair administration of justice. There cannot be any doubt that fair investigation is the right of a citizen," the bench said.

WHAT THEY SAID



A portrait of actor Vijay is seen near the scattered shoes after a stampede. AFP

> It is clear that the Division Bench at Madurai denied the CBI investigation, holding that the investigation by the local police is not flawed, while the learned Single Judge at the Main Seat, dissatisfied with the police investigation, directed for constitution of SIT. Such recourse prima facie indicates the lack of sensitivity and propriety to deal with such a matter creating multiplicity of proceedings, for the reasons best known to the Hon'ble Judges.
>
> - SUPREME COURT

KOVAI SATHYAN
AIADMK spokesperson

> The SC's decision is clearly a slap in the face for DMK. They were peddling narratives and lies instead of doing justice to the victims' families. There were glaring deficiencies in the way DMK took forward the handling of the investigation in this case.

K ANNAMALAI
BJP leader

> The BJP wanted a CBI inquiry from the beginning because there was no trust in the one-member panel constituted by the TN govt. This is about the lives of 41 people. We need to get to the bottom of it. Is it the mistake of the organisers or the local administration or somebody in the crowd.

Political undertone

The court also noted, looking to the political undertone of the case and the fact that, without having regard to the gravity of the incident, the comments that have been made before the media by the top officers of the Police Department may create doubt in the minds of the citizenry about impartiality and fair investigation.

"The faith and trust of the general public in the process of investigation must be restored in the criminal justice system, and one way to instil such trust is by ensuring that the investigation in the present case is completely impartial and independent," the court said.

The court set aside the Madras High Court's order setting up the SIT led by senior IPS officer Asra Garg to probe the stampede.

It also sought a report from the high court's registrar general as to how a writ petition seeking a standard operating procedure for rallies was registered as a criminal writ petition.

The court said the high court's principal bench could not have entertained the matter, which fell within the jurisdiction of the Madurai bench, without any specific authorisation by the Chief Justice, which was absent in the case.

The court's order came on the petitions filed by Tamil actor Vijay's political party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), and others.

No relief for singer in Pahalgam attack post case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea by folk singer Neha Singh Rathore against an FIR lodged against her over a social media post on the Pahalgam terror attack.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi told her to face the proceedings while rejecting her plea.

The court said that at this stage, it is not interfering in the issue of the "charge of mutiny" (endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India).

The bench, however, made it clear that it was not expressing any opinion on the merits of the case.

"It is merely a rejection of quashing. Go and face trial," the bench said.

The bench also granted her liberty to raise the issues at the time of framing of charges.

The petitioner had moved the apex court against an order passed by the Allahabad High Court on September 19. The high court had refused to quash the FIR.

A division bench of the high court had directed her to appear before the investigating officer on September 26 and cooperate with the probe till the filing of the police report. The FIR accused Rathore of targeting a particular religious community and threatening the unity of the country.

Notice to Centre, TN, Kerala on Mullaperiyar dam

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday issued a notice to the Central, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala governments — as well as the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) — on a plea for the construction of a new dam to replace the Mullaperiyar dam due to concerns over its safety and structural stability.

A bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran agreed to examine the plea filed by the NGO Save Kerala Brigade, represented by senior advocate V Giri and advocate Haris Beeran.

The counsel submitted that there was a need for a new dam in the region, as the lives of around 1 crore people, who lived downstream, were at risk.

The bench said some directions could be issued to strengthen the dam.

"What exactly is the problem? If another dam is constructed, then Tamil Nadu will probably say the lease will go," said the bench.

Giri said the present dam was built with surky, and that seismic activities had increased in the region. The bench noted that it was one of the oldest dams, and was informed that it is over 120 years old.

The bench suggested that the matter be examined by an expert body to assess safety aspects and the feasibility of constructing a new structure. After hearing arguments, the bench decided to issue notice on the plea.

The plea said earthquakes and seismic activities had not been considered when the dam was constructed.

It stated that the situation had since changed, and that the area had several geological faultlines: 20 earthquakes had occurred from July 26, 2011, in the area.

Gopinathan joins Cong

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Former IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan, who resigned from the IAS in 2019 protesting against curtailing free speech in J&K following the abrogation of Article 370, joined the Congress on Monday, with the party saying his induction gives a "clear-cut message" that it is the only party that is fighting for people's justice

Gopinathan said those who question the government now are branded "anti-nationals" forgetting that subjects have become citizens with the right to question their rulers, while insisting that he wanted to fight the direction that the present government wanted to take. He said only Congress can take the country in the right direction.

Durgapur gang-rape: Survivor's father says Bengal under 'Aurangzeb's rule'

KOLKATA/ BHUBANESWAR, PTI: The alleged gang-rape of a second-year medical student in West Bengal's Durgapur has sparked massive outrage, snowballing into a major political storm, with the survivor's father likening Bengal to "Aurangzeb's rule" and Governor C V Ananda Bose calling for a "second renaissance" to make the state safer for women.

The arrest of all five accused came amid growing political friction, as the ruling TMC, the opposition BJP, and even the government of the survivor's home state Odisha, sparred over the Mamata Banerjee administration's handling of the case and her remarks on women's safety.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) urged academic and institutional support for the survivor.

"With two more arrests this morning, all five accused have been taken into custody," said Asansol-Durgapur Police Commissioner Sunil Kumar Choudhary. "We are satisfied with the progress of the investigation and assure the parents that the culprits will not be spared."

The 23-year-old student from Balasore district was allegedly gang-raped near the private medical college in Durgapur on Friday night.

A man scuffles with a CISF personnel as police detain BJP supporters during a protest over the alleged gang-rape of a medical student in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

Three of the accused arrested on October 12 were produced before the Durgapur Sub-Divisional Court and remanded to 10 days' police custody, while the two others, arrested on Monday, were sent to nine days' custody.

Meanwhile, the survivor's father said he had lost faith in West Bengal's law and order and wanted to take his daughter back to Odisha.

"She (CM) is also a woman. How can she (Mamata Banerjee) say such an irresponsible thing? Should women quit their jobs and sit at home? It seems Bengal is under the rule of Aurangzeb. I want to take my daughter back to Odisha. Her life comes first, her career later," he said.

His remarks came amid nationwide outrage over Banerjee's controversial statement that "female students should not step out late at night."

Banerjee had said, "I am shocked at what happened, but private medical colleges must take care of their girl students. They should not be allowed to go out at night." She later clarified that her statement was "distorted and taken out of context."

The remarks drew widespread condemnation from opposition parties.

Governor Bose rushed to Durgapur on Monday to meet the survivor and her family.

'Regressive mindset': BJP hits out at Mamata

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Calling the Trinamool Congress's mindset "regressive", the BJP on Monday attacked Mamata Banerjee for her comments on the Durgapur gang-rape case.

"A medical college Dalit student is gang-raped under Mamata Banerjee's government. But instead of taking strict action, she insensitively justifies this heinous crime, saying women shouldn't go out late at night. This is utterly shameful," BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj said at a press conference in Delhi.

Bansuri said that Mamata has made similar comments on other such rape cases. "The TMC government has become a symbol of regressive thinking. From Park Street in 2012 to Hanskhali in 2022 and then Kamduni in 2013 and the recent RG Kar Medical College incident in 2024, Mamata has continuously tried to justify rape incidents with shameful statements," she added.

BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya called the incident a "complete breakdown of law and order". "CM Mamata Banerjee lied about the girl being out at 12.30 am. The truth is that, as per IQ City Medical College and Hospital, the girl went out at 8 pm, which is a decent hour by any standard," Malviya said.

India is a great country with good friend of mine at the top: Trump

SHARM EL-SHEIKH (EGYPT), PTI: US President Donald Trump on Monday praised India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi without naming him, saying "India is a great country with a good friend of mine at the top".

Trump, addressing a summit of world leaders at this Egyptian city after a ceasefire reached in Gaza ending the Israel-Hamas war, said from the podium that he thinks "India and Pakistan will live very nicely together".

"India is a great country with a very good friend of mine at the top, and he's just done a fantastic job. I think Pakistan and India are going to live very nicely together," Trump said while looking at Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who was standing behind him, as he responded with a chuckle.

Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif speaks next to US President Donald Trump during world leaders' summit in Sharm el-Sheikh. REUTERS

Earlier praising Sharif and his "favourite field marshal", Pakistan army chief Gen Asim Munir, Trump also invited the Pakistan prime minister to address the gathering.

Sharif said peace has been achieved in the Middle East after "untiring and relentless efforts" of President Trump.

"Pakistan had nominated President Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for his outstanding (and) extraordinary contributions to first stop the war between India and Pakistan and then achieve a ceasefire along with his very wonderful team," he said.

Sharif said he would like to nominate Trump again for the Nobel Peace Prize for "saving millions of lives not only in South Asia but also in the Middle East".

After missing out on the Nobel Peace Prize, Trump has claimed to have resolved eight wars, including the one between India and Pakistan, saying he did not do this for the Nobel.

India has consistently maintained that the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two militaries.

Tharoor questions sending MoS to Gaza peace summit

NEW DELHI, PTI: Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday said India's presence at the Gaza peace summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, at the level of a Minister of State, was in stark contrast to the heads of state gathered there, and wondered whether the decision reflects "strategic restraint" or "missed opportunity".

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh is representing India at a peace summit in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh.

It is learnt that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was invited for the summit that is expected to be attended by US President Donald Trump and nearly 20 other world leaders. However, New Delhi deputed Singh to attend the summit.

Shashi Tharoor

Reacting to the development, Tharoor said, "India's presence at the Sharm el-Sheikh Gaza peace summit, at the level of a Minister of State, stands in stark contrast to the heads of state gathered there. Strategic restraint or missed opportunity?"

"This is no reflection on Kirti Vardhan Singh, whose competence is not in question; but given the galaxy of grandees present, India's choice could be seen as signalling a preference for strategic distance, which our statements don't convey," said Tharoor, a former minister of state for external affairs.

"And for reasons of protocol access alone, India's voice at the Summit on issues of reconstruction and regional stability may carry less weight than it could have. In a region reshaping itself, our relative absence is puzzling," the MP argued.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Some hard questions on Machado's Nobel

Maria Corina Machado's Nobel Prize for Peace comes in honour of her "tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy." The Nobel Committee's choice has invited criticism, as some of its decisions have in the past. Machado has led a popular movement against the government in her country, which has been accused of authoritarian conduct. She has opposed Venezuela's socialist governments, first under Hugo Chavez and then under the present President Nicolas Maduro. Machado has been in hiding since August last year, following Maduro's victory in an election held amid allegations of fraud. Hers is an important fight, considering that various international agencies, including UN bodies, have indicted the Venezuelan regime for suppression of democracy and dissent.

The Committee said that as the leader of the democratic movement in Venezuela, Machado was an extraordinary example of civilian courage. It noted that democracy depends on people "who refuse to stay silent" despite grave risks, and who remind us that freedom "must never be taken for granted". Machado has been a victim of repression and suffered for her resistance against the government. She was accused of treason and tried for it. She was stripped of her seat in the National Assembly and barred from contesting elections. The targeted attacks forced her to go into hiding and have made her a symbol of a fight for democratic and human rights in a world marked by rising authoritarianism.

She has fought the tough fight at home, but that cannot mask her backing of oppression elsewhere

There, however, are relevant grounds to question the Committee's choice. Machado has made statements backing Israel, which has unleashed a war on Palestinians and has been censured for its brazen trampling of human rights. She is an admirer of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has equated Venezuela's struggle to the "struggle" of Israel, and called Israel a "genuine ally of freedom." She has also dedicated her Prize to United States President Donald Trump, who is among the most authoritarian of the world's leaders. Can a person who supports a state known for its war crimes be considered a champion of peace and awarded the top prize for it? Machado has pushed back against the powerful for democratic rights in her country, but the fight for peace and human rights is not divisible; it cannot be tailored for different situations. Her win presents the world with an opportunity to remember Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1991, and later voiced support for the suppression of the Rohingya in her country.

Bengaluru seeks intent, not excuses

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru in-charge D K Shivakumar has a novel cure for the capital city's crumbling roads, endless traffic jams, and mountains of garbage, by pointing out that other cities are also a mess. London, Delhi, take your pick. Why bother fixing Bengaluru when you can prove that the rest of the world is equally miserable? It is a clever form of civic spin: your city is broken? Congratulations, you are in global company. Of course, traffic snarls and potholes are not an exclusive Bengaluru feature, but here is the catch: in London, the potholes are fixed within days; in Bengaluru, they become permanent fixtures. In other cities, garbage segregation is mandated and monitored; in Bengaluru, it fuels an entire "garbage mafia" economy that survives multiple governments and thrives on unbroken political patronage. Shivakumar's inability to dismantle this reflects not his capacity, but convenient helplessness.

This is a city that has been neglected for decades. The BJP – which governed the city and for much of the past decade – can hardly claim innocence. Both parties have contributed generously to the civic mess we are in: one ignored the rot, the other perfected the art of excuses. There is also an entire ecosystem that seems to revel in Bengaluru's miseries, taking perverse pleasure in amplifying every failure and celebrating each setback with glee. Rather than being bogged down by this cynicism, the DCM should see it for what it is: a city that is crying out for change.

A deny-and-deflect approach will not fix the city's civic failures. It will take a strong will for reform

And yet, if there is one leader who can bulldoze through the bureaucracy, it is Shivakumar. His leadership has been on display in projects such as India's largest solar park at Pavagada. Why does that resolve fade when it comes to fixing Bengaluru's most basic urban ailments? If comparisons must be made, let them be with Singapore's integrated transport planning, Amsterdam's water management, or San Francisco's waste segregation. These are the gold standards Bengaluru should aspire to, not excuses for why we remain stuck in civic agony. Bengaluru is bruised, battered, and betrayed, but not beyond redemption. Shivakumar has the political heft and the reputation of a go-getter. It is time he used both to clean up not just the city's streets, but also its governance. What Bengaluru needs is not defensive comparisons but a decisive leadership that is willing to stop playing the victim card and start wielding the reform hammer.

THE GAZA PLAN

Trump secures a fragile peace. Will it hold?

The president says the deal is done, but unresolved demands, political divisions will pose a challenge

R SWAMINATHAN

United States President Donald Trump is on a highly significant, eight-hour whirlwind diplomatic visit to Israel and Egypt to mark the ceasefire and advance the second phase of the 20-point comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict, which he presented on September 29.

Markedly, just before Trump arrived at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv, Hamas handed over seven of the 20 living hostages to the Red Cross. The remaining 13 have since been released. The trip was tightly scheduled to coincide with the release of the hostages, followed by Trump's address to the Knesset, a meeting with the families of the hostages, and a visit thereafter to Sharm el-Sheikh for the US-Egyptian-led peace summit.

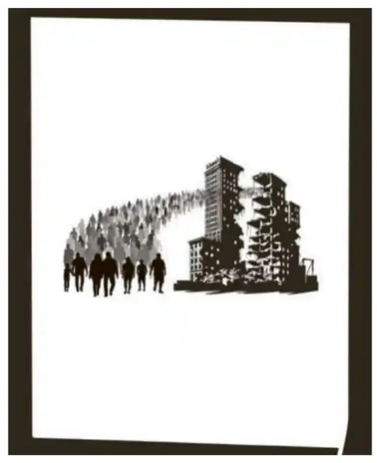
The return of the hostages after two years in captivity has triggered an outpouring of emotion and celebrations in Israel. At a rally in the Hostages Square in Tel Aviv two days ago, the US envoy Steve Witkoff was greeted warmly, with the crowd thanking President Trump effusively, but booing at the mention of PM Netanyahu, highlighting the deep divisions in Israel on his handling of the war.

The nature and context of the celebrations in Gaza were starkly different. In Israel, the reaction was characterised by overwhelming relief, joy, and emotional fulfillment over the imminent return of the remaining captives; in Gaza, the reaction was a mixture of jubilation, profound relief, and deep caution, born from two years of immense suffering.

The displaced population of Gaza has started returning to their destroyed homes. While humanitarian aid has commenced, the expectation is that UN agencies will soon be allowed to provide sustained and urgently-needed aid. Implementation of the first phase of the plan has moved rather swiftly on the ground, since Hamas' acceptance of the plan, albeit with reservations.

"The government has now approved the outline for the release of all abductees – living and dead," the Israeli prime minister's office said in a statement after the cabinet voted on it in the early hours of Friday morning. Trump had sent his envoy Steve Witkoff and his son-in-law Jared Kushner to Israel to ensure a positive outcome. The ceasefire came into effect as of Friday, and soon thereafter, the IDF (Israel Defence Forces) withdrew to the agreed-upon, designated line within Gaza. After this partial withdrawal, 53% of the territory of Gaza continues to remain under the control of the IDF, compared to about 80% earlier.

Israel is committed to releasing 250



Palestinian prisoners serving life sentences and 1,700 other detainees. Hamas insisted on the release of Marwan Barghouti, a leader of Fatah, a rival political party that effectively controls the Palestinian Authority (PA), representing the State of Palestine. Barghouti is widely seen as capable of uniting the fragmented Palestinian factions and a potential successor to the current PA President Mahmoud Abbas, who is perceived as ineffective. His release would allow Hamas to claim credit for liberating a national hero, thereby elevating it in the eyes of Palestinians, but Israel has rejected the proposal, precisely for these reasons.

Other significant differences remain. Hamas insists on full withdrawal of the IDF and emphasises that the present agreement constitutes "an end to the war on Gaza". However, for a full withdrawal, Israel would insist on Hamas' disarmament and destruction of its military infrastructure, including the tunnel network. For PM Netanyahu, the deal provided a temporary pause to get the hostages released. Five of his cabinet colleagues from the two far-right parties on whom he depends for political survival voted against the cabinet decision, criticising the release of Palestinian prisoners and the ceasefire.

The past isn't promising

There is a possibility that Israel may violate the agreement as it did in the past. The Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreement concluded in January this year collapsed in two months as both parties were fundamentally unable to bridge the gap between their irreconcilable core demands. Secondly, in the context of Lebanon, Israel has continued to carry out aerial and drone strikes, claiming that the actions are necessary for self-defence and to target immediate threats, despite its November 2024 ceasefire agreement.

Hamas, however, has a card up its sleeve, which is the return of the mortal remains of the 28 hostages. While the Trump plan stipulated an immediate release of all the hostages, both dead and living, Hamas has claimed that due to the massive destruction in Gaza, the process of locating and retrieving the remains of the dead hostages may require more time and unimpeded access across the Strip than the 72-hour window allows. This gives tactical advantage to Hamas to prolong the ceasefire.

Implementation of the second phase will be even more difficult given the diametrically opposite views of Israel and Hamas shared by the Arab countries. But the Sharm el-Sheikh peace summit co-hosted by President Trump and President el-Sisi, attended by many Arab, Islamic, and European leaders at the level of Heads of States and governments, is intended to finalise the international framework for the subsequent phases of the Trump plan.

Another positive takeaway is that the Gulf countries are more proactively engaged this time. Their influence on Washington and the intolerance for the continued offensive on Gaza could sustain the plan. Significantly, Trump, before landing in Tel Aviv, declared that the two-year war in Gaza "is over". The fate of the region would depend on the president staying the course.

(The writer is a former ambassador of India to Egypt and former Permanent Representative of India to the Arab League)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Different masters, different strokes

My heroes wielded rods and rulers, but the lessons outlast bruises

I P ANAND

Teachers are often remembered not only for their subject expertise but also for their peculiarities. As I bow in gratitude to my schoolteachers, who initiated me into the world of knowledge and learning, I fondly recall their personalised ways of teaching—each one with his own swag and style.

My first vivid memory goes to the short and stocky Sardar Kuldeep Singh, who taught us English in class 8, a subject introduced only in class 6. He would write difficult spellings or odd sentences for changes of voice or narration on the blackboard, along with their solutions. Then he would issue his trademark command: "About turn!" which we had to obey, reluctantly turning our backs to the board to face his volley of questions. We were often tempted to look back, and soon his cane would come to "correct" us. However sore my back would become, I remember till today the spellings and grammar rules of the 'Queer Quizmaster'.

Equally unforgettable was our heavily built, bespectacled drawing teacher. Before sketching a bird or an animal, he began with his typical phrase, "*Peh' laan ik beja ban'anana vey*" (first, we must draw an irregular shape). Then, with a running commentary, he drew a few simple lines that magically transformed into a complete figure. We struggled to decipher *beja*, but were amazed and amused at the grandmaster's magical manoeuvres.

Science had its own distinctive disciplinarian—tall, muscular Saif Saab. In his roaring voice, he would declare every day: "*Yaad kar ke aana, main kal iss* chapter *mein se sawaal puchhoonga*" (come prepared. Tomorrow I will ask questions from this chapter). Fearing his thunder, I often burnt the midnight oil. Ironically, very often he forgot to ask promised questions, yet his awe and aura made us learn the entire chapter by heart. Such methods were, without doubt, supremely successful.

Unlike today, when corporal punishment is a criminal offence, our era religiously followed the rule "Spare the rod; spoil the child." The rod really reigned over us. And even in caning, individuality was evident. The maths teacher struck palms with his wooden ruler, chanting, "*Danda peer hai vigde tigdeyan da*" (the rod tames the wayward). Striking with a scale, the motherly Hindi teacher scolded softly, "*Sha'rm nahin aati sha'raarat karte hue*?" (Aren't you ashamed of doing mischief?) And the burly PT master struck and spoke: "*Laaton ke bhoot baaton se nahin maan'te*."

The statements differed, and the strokes varied, but the essence was the same—a deep sense of commitment to discipline and an unshakeable urge to educate. They, therefore, lashed and loved at the same time; hands were caned, but heads were caressed.

American author Guy Kawasaki rightly remarks, "If you have to put someone on a pedestal, put teachers. They are society's heroes." My heroes may have wielded rods and rulers, but they left me with lessons that outlast every bruise—discipline, respect, and the lifelong joy of teaching and learning.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why did India allow Taliban minister to dictate terms on its soil?

The recent reports about the Afghan Foreign Minister's press conference, where the Afghan Government barred Indian women journalists from attending, are quite disturbing. It is peculiar that the minister, while on Indian soil, felt empowered to take such actions according to his own whims and fancies. The Indian Foreign Ministry's excuse that the press conference was held at the Afghan embassy and therefore beyond their control is unacceptable. By washing their hands of the issue, they are essentially condoning the Minister's behaviour. Inviting the minister as a guest of the Government of India was a questionable decision, especially given the Taliban regime's unrecognised status. Furthermore, allowing him to dictate terms on Indian soil is unbecoming. If women are not permitted to participate in official engagements in Afghanistan, that is their prerogative; however, such conventions should not be imposed on Indian soil, which has its own constitution and laws. The PM's helplessness in this matter is regrettable.

A R Ravichandran, Bengaluru

Go beyond the rhetoric

Apropos 'Trump treats Modi as great, personal friend: US envoy designate' (Oct 12), the US Ambassador to India designate, Sergio Gor, recently met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed the close relationship between PM Modi and US President Donald Trump. While the camaraderie between the two leaders may be touted as a significant development, it is essential to look beyond the rhetoric. The imposition of steep tariffs on Indian exports, the increase in H-1B visa fees to $100,000, and the 100% tariff on films made outside the US are all indicative of a relationship that is not as friendly as it seems. The opposition parties are right to question the significance of this friendship.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

The Nobel bias

The announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize to Maria Corina Machado, Venezuela's opposition leader, has raised questions. It is surprising to see the Nobel Committee overlooking contributions of several eminent personalities while choosing individuals with questionable credentials. Henry Kissinger, who persuaded US President Nixon to bomb the peaceful Kampuchea (now Cambodia), was awarded the Peace Prize in 1973. Le Duc Tho of Vietnam, who was to receive the award with Kissinger, rejected the prize in protest. If such actions continue, the credibility of the Nobel Prize will be questioned.

S Shashidhar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The Modi government, by bringing three new criminal justice laws, has not only freed the citizens from the symbolic laws of slavery, but is also realising the dream of 'Doorstep Justice'... By adopting these three new laws, there has been a historic increase in the conviction rate in Rajasthan.

Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

More law, less justice.

Marcus Tullius Cicero

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

The economics of menstrual leave

With the right checks and guidelines, Karnataka's policy can boost productivity and female labour force participation

RAJESHWARI U R

The decision of the Karnataka government to grant one paid menstrual leave per month for women employees across both government and private sectors marks a landmark moment in India's labour policy. From an economic standpoint, this move carries several positive dimensions, especially when considered alongside international and other Indian state precedents. One of the most immediate and tangible economic benefits expected is the reduction of presenteeism, a situation where employees work despite health-related discomfort and are consequently less productive.

Menstruation often involves physical pain, fatigue, and psychological stress that may temporarily reduce concentration and efficiency. When women continue to work under such conditions, the economy suffers an invisible productivity loss. Granting one paid leave per month allows women to rest and recover, thereby improving performance and consistency on other working days. Over time, this approach may lead to higher overall productivity, fewer medical complications, and lower absenteeism due to untreated menstrual health issues. The potential benefits are particularly pronounced in sectors like manufacturing and Information Technology, both major contributors to Karnataka's economy.

Another important positive effect is in terms of female labour force participation and retention. Measures that improve working conditions for women often help retain talent and reduce turnover. For women who might otherwise reduce hours, drop leaves without pay, or even exit the workforce due to unmanaged menstrual health burdens, this kind of policy can be a stabilising factor. Karnataka's move may thus contribute to improved gender equity in employment. Over a longer horizon, this strengthens human capital accumulation, as more women remain active in employment, gain experience, skills, promotions, and contribute tax revenues.

Karnataka's policy also generates positive social signalling and externalities. By formalising menstrual leave across sectors, the state normalises discussions around menstruation and its impacts, reducing stigma. This may lead to improved health outcomes, greater awareness, and investment in menstrual health infrastructure, such as workplace sanitation, access to hygienic products, rest facilities, and supportive health policies. Such infrastructure itself has economic returns: lower absenteeism, fewer medical complications, and enhanced dignity, which signals higher morale among women workers.

Bihar provides a useful precedent. As early as 1992, it introduced a policy granting two days of paid menstrual leave each month to women government employees. Although this policy had a narrower scope, it demonstrates that such leave can be implemented over decades without collapsing labour market outcomes. Odisha, more recently, introduced a one-day menstrual leave policy for employees in the state government sectors. Kerala has taken another track, extending menstrual leave to female students in higher education institutions. Karnataka appears to build on these precedents by offering a more generous and broadly applicable policy, reducing differential treatment between sectors, and raising the standard of workplace welfare.

Internationally, several countries have had menstrual leave policies in place or in discourse. Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Zambia, the Philippines, and Taiwan are among the nations that recognise menstrual leave with variation in the number of days allowed, whether the leave is paid or unpaid, and eligibility conditions.

A national model?

Academic research comparing these jurisdictions often finds that there is concern over menstrual leave being underused (e.g. because of stigma) or misinterpreted by employers, but the net effect on labour market participation of women has not been clearly negative. Scholars emphasise that leave policies perform best when accompanied by legal safeguards against discrimination, transparency in leave usage, and cultural acceptance.

Critics argue that menstrual leave may inadvertently reinforce gender stereotypes or discourage employers from hiring women. Such risks can be mitigated through proper legal design and monitoring. Karnataka's challenge will be to ensure that leave days are treated as legitimate health entitlements, not performance liabilities.

Transparent implementation guidelines, confidential leave application systems, and penalties for discrimination in hiring or promotions will be vital. Periodic evaluation of usage rates, productivity indicators, employee satisfaction, and firm-level outcomes can inform refinements.

From an economic perspective, Karnataka's menstrual leave policy promises multiple positives. It has the potential to improve productivity, enhance gender equality in the workforce, reduce turnover, and produce important positive externalities in health and social norms. The examples from Bihar, Odisha, Kerala, and international jurisdictions suggest that such policies can be effective. If the results demonstrate improved retention, reduced absenteeism, and positive morale effects, Karnataka's policy could serve as a model for nationwide adoption.

(The writer is an associate professor, Department of Economics, Christ University, Bengaluru)

Twenty years on, the RTI story is still being written

A M PRASAD

The Right to Information (RTI) Act came into effect two decades ago, following which the Karnataka Information Commission (KIC) was established on July 30, 2005. The Commission currently comprises the State Chief Information Commissioner and ten Information Commissioners, with permanent benches in Kalaburagi and Belgavi to ensure quicker disposal of appeals at the local level.

Each year, five to six lakh RTI applications are filed across the state, both online and offline, under Section 6(1) of the Act. During 2024-2025 alone, the KIC received 30,821 second appeals under section 19(3) (of which 4,516 were online) and 1,910 applications under Section 18(1) requiring inquiry into complaints filed by any person. While it disposed of 15,497 applications under second appeal, 1,483 complaints filed under Sec 18 were disposed of, imposing penalties Rs 33,11,000 on Public Information Officers for delays in providing information. It also awarded compensation of Rs 12.16 lakh to 112 appellants under Section 19(8)(b) for loss or detriment faced caused by denial or delay.

The volume of second appeals filed in the Commission has grown exponentially–from 17,204 in the year 2020-2021 to 30,821 in 2024-2025. The highest number of applications comes from the departments of Rural Development and Panchayath Raj, Revenue, Urban Development, Social Welfare, Home, Water Resources and Forests. Among districts, Bengaluru Urban and Rural top the list, followed by Belagavi, Bagalkot, Davengere, Kolar, Mandya, and Vijaynagar.

As the RTI Act marks its twentieth year, it is time to reflect on how far India has advanced towards the vision envisaged in its Preamble–an informed citizenry, transparency of information to contain corruption, and accountability of governments to the governed.

The RTI Act deepened the participatory nature of Indian democracy by empowering citizens and making officials more accountable. The Right to Life under Article 21 has been interpreted to include the Right to Know, and the Supreme Court's 2017 Puttaswamy Judgement affirmed that the Right to Privacy is essential to personal liberty. Together, these rights – knowledge, information, education, and privacy –form the pillars of transparent and accountable governance.

The RTI framework enables any citizen to seek information by filing applications under Section 6(1), appeals under Section 19, and complaints under Section 18. Information must be provided within 48 hours if it is related to human rights violations or corruption (Section 7). The Severability clause (under Section 10) allows partial disclosure by redacting exempt portions, while Section 8 protects privacy of and national interest by exempting matters related to sovereignty, court of law proceedings, parliamentary privilege, foreign affairs or the safety of individuals. Qualified exemptions – such as commercial and trade secrets or fiduciary records, Cabinet papers, Person information–may still be disclosed in larger public interest. Section 11 restricts disclosure of third-party information without consent. Thus, the RTI Act strives to balance the citizen's right to know with legitimate privacy and security concerns.

The biggest shortcoming in RTI implementation remains the lack of proactive disclosure of information mandated under Section 4, which lists various categories of information that must be made public without any RTI request. It also prescribes the manner in which the information should be provided. Compliance with this section could reduce applications by nearly 70%, easing the burden on departments and curbing inefficiency and wrong doing. Yet, a recent survey found that most government departments have failed to comply, despite repeated directives.

In August 2023, the Supreme Court directed the Central and State Information Commissions to monitor the implementation of Section 4 amd ensure adherence to government guidelines.

Another major challenge is the volume and vagueness of requests. The High Court of Karnataka, in *the Department of Agriculture vs KIC*, held that applications lacking purpose or seeking voluminous, non-specific data may be rejected to prevent waste of time and public resources. Repeated or frivolous applications filed by the same individual also block genuine users' access. The CIC has advised public authorities to record such abuse and recommend non-entertainment of repetitive requests.

Delays in disposal of applications often stem from delay in appointment of Information Commissioners. The KIC, now functioning at near-full strength, has improved disposal rates–over 10,000 cases have been cleared this yes–helped by regular hearings and voluntary disclosure by PIOs after several workshops conducted in districts.

The Supreme Court, in *CPIO vs S C Aggarwal*, clarified that neither the right to information nor the right to privacy is absolute. The RTI Act contains a finely tuned balancing of interests, and privacy concerns of third parties cannot be disregarded without giving them an opportunity to object. Applicants, in turn, must seek information with precision and clarity.

Denying citizens access to vital information, however, impedes democratic processes and restricts access to essential services. As the Court noted in *State of Gujarat vs Mirzapur Moti Kasab Jamaat & Ors*, public interest encompasses public order, public health, public security, morals, economic welfare of community as well as the objects mentioned in Part IV of Constitution. RTI must continue to function as an enabler of transparency and accountability, not merely as a procedural tool.

(The writer is the Karnataka Chief Information Commissioner and a retired DGP)

Iran became a pioneer in gender transition operations by forcing procedures on LGBTQ Iranians. Desperate for cash, it is now hoping to attract trans patients from around the world

PRANAV BASKAR AND LEILY NIKOUNAZAR

Arastu, holding a photo of himself taken before his transition in which he was preparing for a role in a television show. NYT

Forced to conform: Iran's transgender tourism trap

For 40 years, Iran has performed more gender transition surgeries than many other nations, largely a result of pressuring gay and gender-nonconforming citizens to undergo unwanted operations or risk the death penalty.

Now, faced with an economy crippled by war and sanctions, the Islamic republic is promoting its expertise to a global audience, hoping to attract transgender foreigners with the promise of inexpensive surgeries packaged with luxury hotel stays and sightseeing tours.

Desperate for foreign investment, Iran's theocratic government has set a goal of generating more than $7 billion from medical tourism annually, according to Iranian state news media, about seven times as much as it earned last year. That objective has resulted in the proliferation of medical tourism companies, marketing not just nose jobs and hair transplants, but vaginoplasties, mastectomies and penis constructions through glossy English-language websites.

"We handle everything from start to finish, providing the best medical services to ensure a stress-free experience," said Farideh Najafi, the manager of two medical tourism companies, MabnaTrip and MedPalTrip. "This includes booking hotels, hospitals, transportation and more," she said.

Iran is one of the few places in the Muslim world that allows transgender people to seek gender-affirming care and even subsidises it. For many foreigners traveling to Iran for transition surgery, and indeed for many transgender Iranians, these operations can feel lifesaving. But the country's reputation as a pioneer in the field belies the abusive history of the operations and the grim reality for most LGBTQ+ people there.

In Iran, gay men and lesbians can be punished by public flogging and the death penalty. As a result, the United Nations Human Rights Council found, many gay and lesbian Iranians who are not trans are "pressured into undergoing gender reassignment surgery without their free consent."

Still, the country's cut-rate prices are drawing transgender individuals from as far away as Australia, the United States, Britain and Europe, according to medical tour operators and surgeons. Many more patients, they say, come from neighbouring countries, like Iraq, where such treatments are strictly forbidden.

"In the United States, the cost of surgery is around $45,000, and in Thailand, it's approximately $30,000," according to the website of one operator, IranMedTour. "However, the cost of gender confirmation surgery in Iran is lower, with prices less than $12,000." Other companies advertise procedures at government hospitals for as low as $4,500.

Sam, 32, a trans man from Orange County, California, is currently in Tehran, the Iranian capital, to pursue a hysterectomy and metoidioplasty, a kind of penis-construction surgery. Requesting anonymity to discuss a sensitive medical procedure, he said he was drawn to Iran because he believed the doctors there were "more confident" than those in the US.

"The goal of these medical tours is probably to portray Iran as a paradise for trans people, which it isn't," said Saman Arastu, a transgender Iranian man and actor who chose to undergo so-called top and bottom surgeries. "In my opinion, these are nothing but a show. The situation for trans people is dire."

While precise figures are unknown, a report by the Home Office of Britain from 2022 found that roughly 4,000 people underwent transition surgery each year in Iran, a figure higher than the combined annual totals in Britain and France. Experts say a vast majority of patients come from inside Iran.

Iran's experience with transition surgery stems from a fatwa issued in the 1980s by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founding supreme leader of the Islamic republic, who declared that transgender individuals could gain legal recognition of the gender with which they identified, but only on the condition that they underwent transition surgery.

On the surface that policy inverts what many in the West expect from Iran, where gender norms are so strictly enforced that until recently women were punished for not wearing *hijabs* in public.

But transgender Iranians and experts say the government's embrace of surgery in no way correlates to advocacy for trans people.

Iranians who do not adhere to traditional norms of masculinity and femininity — including trans people who do not want surgery — are subject to violence, extortion or are pressured into operations.

Raha Ajoudani, 20, a trans woman and activist, made the opposite journey that many foreign tourists are making. She fled to Germany from Iran in 2024 to avoid a forced transition surgery and to escape state persecution for her activism. Ajoudani said that she was detained twice by authorities in 2022, after an ex-boyfriend collaborated with the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence, to facilitate her arrest. Her family, she added, is routinely hounded to get her to stop her activism.

"I never wanted to undergo gender reassignment surgery," Ajoudani said. "I've defined myself outside of this binary. I didn't want to live according to the governmental definition of cultural expectations of being a woman or a man, nor did I submit to Khomeini's *fatwa*."

Surgery is not a guarantee of acceptance or safety. Transgender people in Iran face murder and other forms of violence and harassment.

The tour companies include language to assuage foreigners of those fears in their advertising materials.

Amid glossy before-and-after photo illustrations of idealised pectorals and breasts, and copy that promises "budget-friendly" procedures, rapid visa approvals and help achieving "a strong feeling of happiness and relief," the tour companies are also selling patients on what one calls Iran's "relatively progressive stance on transgender rights."

Najafi, the tour manager, conceded that some foreigners feared running afoul of the authorities or the locals, but said that patients traveling with her company had "never had any security issues."

Transition surgeries are complex operations with a questionable record of safety in Iran. Some activists have likened the country's gender clinics to "butcher" shops.

Saghi Ghahraman, who led the Iranian Queer Organisation, said that while they believed treatment standards had improved, the change had come at a cost, as many gay people felt forced into operations that were like "experiments."

A UN report on transition surgeries in Iran from 2015 described botched procedures that led to complications like "severe bleeding, severe infection, scarring, chronic pain and abnormally shaped or located sexual organs."

Adding to the risks are some tour companies' promises of rapid procedures, which experts said should involve months of planning. Some market timelines as short as one week.

Shahryar Cohanzad, a urologist in Tehran who has performed around 300 transition surgeries, said the companies' aim to perform as many procedures as quickly as possible was unsafe.

"From what I know after 35 years of performing surgeries, it's critical for the surgeon to spend as much time as possible with the patient," he said.

Eric, 45, a trans man living in Canada who requested anonymity to protect himself and his family from reprisals, said he had sought treatment in Iran because it was cheap. But he acknowledged the tension in seeking treatment in a place where others have it forced on them. **NYT**

India's dual dividend

VIBHAV MARIWALA

As India ages and faces a multitude of geopolitical challenges, its future lies not only in its youth but also in how it harnesses its older and more experienced workers. Its demographic dividend can be leveraged through its 'experience dividend'.

India is the youngest large country in the world. Yet paradoxically, its future hinges on how it treats its older, more experienced workers, i.e., the silver generation. The real question is not whether India has a demographic dividend, but whether it can also mobilise an experience dividend. India's true edge lies in its dual dividend of both youth and experience. The former can build on the successes of the latter.

By 2047, India will be home to nearly 300 million older adults. To rely only on youth alone is shortsighted; self-reliance requires tapping into the experience dividend of those who helped build the economy of the last 30 years. Without harnessing the experience and knowledge of its older workers, India risks squandering this golden opportunity.

Across the world, ageing societies are adapting to make the silver generation key to the economy. Germany relies on apprenticeships, Japan keeps its elderly engaged in community and social functions, and the largest proportion of entrepreneurs in the United States and the United Kingdom are aged 50 and above. Unlike the West, India is still early in its ageing journey, giving it a rare chance to design systems where the silver generation can train and guide its youth.

This positioning of two distinct yet highlighted productive demographic groups gives it time to design systems where older workers train and guide the young, making its demographic dividend a genuine asset.

A report by Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, Ashoka, and Dalberg underscores the role this 'experience dividend' could play in shaping the economy. It is estimated that this segment could add another 1.5% to GDP if more of them re-entered the labour force. Structured corporate pathways, from providing mentorship in IT firms to shaping infrastructure projects and their implementation, have the potential to turn experience into a growth lever.

India has been at an analogous crossroads in the past and has always drawn on older technocrats and leaders with institutional memory — from building institutions in 1947 to opening the economy in 1991. Today's challenge is to embed that experience systematically into youth training pipelines. There is growing evidence of organisations staffed by older workers and retirees that play important roles in providing mentorship, community building, and added support, but the state must find ways to harness them to support India's aspiration. It is a matter of economic and national importance.

Take foreign policy, for example, where India shaped global institutions and discourse on key issues, from Hansa Jivraj Mehta, who helped shape the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, who helped shape global health policies in the 1950s. These efforts, compounded with our foreign policy groundings in democracy, pluralism, and non-alignment, made us a model for emerging countries. India's outsized presence in global forums ensured that it was front and centre in mediating several global crises, from the end of the Korean War in 1953 to the Suez Crisis in 1956, and later on, a new cadre of diplomats used these learnings to lead the charge against Apartheid South Africa and the war in Vietnam.

Similarly, stalwarts like Manmohan Singh, I G Patel, and Montek Singh Ahluwalia heralded India's economic reforms in the 1990s, delivering sustained growth and creating space for a new generation of businesses to flourish. This is not to say the past alone is a guidepost for future growth and innovation, but drawing on the experiences of experts can help refine India's trajectory in the 21st century.

India need not only look overseas for inspiration. It can leverage its experience dividend to prepare for 21st-century challenges like artificial intelligence. Dominant AI models today are American or Chinese, but India's multilingual and context-rich environment demands its own. The technologists who built India's IT backbone can guide the creation of indigenous AI models to solve everyday Indian problems.

This century could truly be India's; it has many of the right ingredients but requires a concerted effort by the State, businesses, society, and institutions to harness its workforce for better economic outcomes. Leveraging the old to support the young, and tapping into decades of expertise can help prepare its burgeoning workforce to reach its full potential. With an ageing population already contributing to the economy and to addressing societal issues, they must be better intertwined with India's youth to harness their potential effectively.

(The writer is a Senior Policy Advisor at WisdomCircle)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

PM lambasts BBC for anti-Indian smear

New Delhi, Oct. 13
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has accused the BBC of being "anti-Indian." saying "its misrepresentation has now crossed the limits." In an interview to the *Sunday Telegraph*, she said: "They seem to feel that anything is fair if it is anti-Indian. That BBC has been very anti-Indian has been conveyed to me by the heads of other countries for many years, not just now. When I have attended conferences of non-aligned countries and so on, my attention was drawn to this, but we did not do anything about it."

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

South Korean President wins Nobel Peace Prize

Oslo, Oct 13 (AP)
South Korean President, Kim Dae-jung, won the Nobel Peace Prize today for his work towards peace and reconciliation with North Korea that led to a groundbreaking summit with his North Korean counterpart. "In the course of South Korea's decades of authoritarian rule, despite repeated threats on his life and long periods in exile, Kim Dae-jung gradually emerged as his country's leading spokesman for democracy," according to the citation.

OASIS | PRIYA ANAND

The taste of success

The Sports Day at a kindergarten annually showcased many colourful drills, a march past and races. The aim was not about winning or losing; it was seen more as fun and an opportunity for interaction between parents, children and teachers. Children absorb every new experience, and outdoor activity shapes them well beyond books.

Every year, teachers and staff dug deep and worked on all the detailing, and the efficient teamwork ensured no stone was left unturned for the event's success. From the time of their arrival, the parents captured every angle and move on their cameras. The excitement reached its peak when their children lined up on the start line of the race. Right from the word 'Go', parents followed the little champs. Their loud cheering could be heard ringing all around the arena. Towards the finish, parents were again busy adjusting the camera, capturing the little steps into the winning frame. With their adrenaline pumping high, the race ended amidst millions of clicks. Calming themselves, parents then eagerly awaited the results. When results were announced, a few parents objected to this outcome and started to argue. In the aftermath, things led to an ugly fight and discontentment. When things began to get out of control, management decided to step in, and eventually, the battle snowballed into the principal's office for reviewing the nail-biting finish in a 50 m race.

After a lot of discussions and dialogues, all contenders were given prizes. This disgruntled victory may have tasted sweet to a few parents, but the bitterness of that incident can still be felt by many parents. After that year the school closed its doors for parents on sports day, making it an 'in-house' affair. 'Success tastes sweet when its secret is sweat.' Winning that race was not the end of the road; it was more as if the egos were at stake. A Buddhist quote reads, "Expecting and accepting are two different things in life. Where expecting ends in tears, accepting may bring some cheer."

Success won on a battleground cannot guarantee happiness. After winning the great battle of Kurukshetra against their own cousins, the Pandavas never felt victorious or celebrated their success. The battle fought for righteousness and dharma witnessed only death and destruction, as war had consumed too many souls. Ultimately, they renounced the mortal world and moved beyond to the heavenly abode.

KTR accuses Congress of manipulating voter list

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K T Rama Rao has accused massive voter fraud ahead of the Jubilee Hills Assembly bypoll.

KT Rama Rao

He and senior party leaders submitted a detailed representation to the chief electoral officer of Telangana on Monday, claiming large-scale irregularities, duplicate entries, and fake voters in the constituency.

Speaking to reporters after the submission, KTR alleged that the Congress was resorting to every possible misuse of power and manipulation to win the seat.

"Ministers from across the state have descended on Jubilee Hills to misuse official machinery and government resources," he said.

He claimed hypocrisy on the part of the party ruling the state, saying, "While their own MLAs are writing letters to the World Bank and newspapers saying the government has no funds, the Congress regime is suddenly pouring massive amounts into Jubilee Hills, deceiving the public once again for electoral gain."

He alleged that the BRS had identified at least 20,000 duplicate and fake votes in the Jubilee Hills constituency so far. In about 400 polling booths, nearly 50 fake votes had been registered per booth, he claimed.

Singur land will not be restored to industries: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday declared that land acquired for Tata Motors' Nano car project in Singur would not be restored to the industrial entities operating there prior to the acquisition.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi gave an interpretation of the apex court's 2016 verdict in Kedar Nath Yadav's case that quashed the land acquisition proceedings for establishing the manufacturing plant of Tata Motors.

The bench said the 2016 judgment was anchored on the premise that the acquisition disproportionately affected vulnerable communities lacking financial resources and institutional access to challenge governmental action.

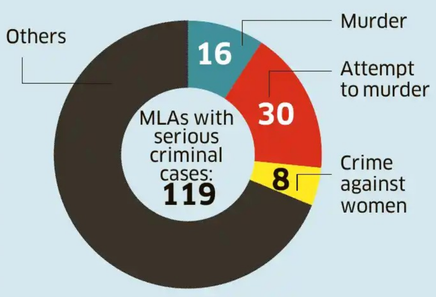
The bench pointed out that the SC had directed restoration of the land to the original landowners or cultivators by the state in 12 weeks.

In a relief to the West Bengal government, the bench said, "Extraordinary judicial intervention is warranted when systemic barriers prevent certain classes from accessing ordinary remedies, not when parties possess adequate means to vindicate their rights. Relief conceived to prevent impoverishment among the disadvantaged cannot extend to commercial enterprises with financial capacity and institutional sophistication."

The government challenged the HC order that had directed the state to restore 28 bighas of land, including all structures, to M/s Santi Ceramics Private Ltd, which was operating a manufacturing facility in Singur for the production of ceramic electrical insulators prior to the 2006 land acquisition process for Tata's Nano project.

Outgoing Bihar Assembly In Numbers

CRIME FILE



PARTYWISE

43	RJD
41	BJP
21	JD(U)
9	CONG
7	CPI(ML)L

EDUCATION

82	Between Class 5 and 12
149	Graduate or above
1	Diploma
9	Just literates

AGE			
	119 between 25 and 50	122 between 51 and 80	21 Women MLAs

"Eating fodder, drinking bitumen, manipulation in award of government contracts and acquiring land by promising jobs was Lalu Prasad's model of governance. This is their time-tested model.

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
BJP LEADER

"A month ago, when Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji came to Bihar, he was threatening us that he wouldn't leave us in a condition to contest elections. I will fight and I will win. We are Biharis, true Biharis... We do not fear outsiders. Jai Bihar, Jai Bihari.

TEJASHWI YADAV
RJD LEADER

Talks falter: Cong-RJD rift stalls Bihar deal

I.N.D.I.A bloc struggles as NDA finalises seat pact

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The I.N.D.I.A bloc on Monday struggled to resolve internal differences over seat-sharing in Bihar, with the RJD and Congress failing to reach common ground despite multiple rounds of negotiations involving senior leaders from both parties.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in the evening, after a nearly two-hour discussion with Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal and Bihar leaders at the residence of Chhattisgarh Rajya Sabha MP Phulo Devi Netam.

There was anticipation that the multi-party alliance would seal the final deal by late evening, but the RJD and Congress blamed each other for remaining rigid in their positions. Smaller partners like the CPI(ML)L waited impatiently, even as the NDA successfully finalised its seat arrangements on Sunday evening, without triggering dissent, despite reducing the JD(U)'s share.

The refrain within the alliance is that while the BJP showed generosity by allotting 29 seats to the LJP (Ram Vilas), the RJD has not been accommodating towards its allies.

Congress sources claimed the RJD was offering 54-55 seats, while the Congress was demanding 60. However, RJD sources said the Congress was insisting on retaining its 2020 tally, when it had contested 70 seats. RJD sources said it was flexible and willing to offer 58 seats, which the Congress is learnt to have rejected.

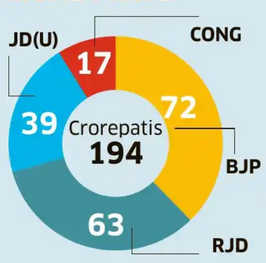
The meetings took place on a day when a Delhi court framed charges against RJD patriarch Lalu Prasad, Tejashwi Yadav, Rabri Devi and others in the alleged IRCTC scam case.

BIHAR VOTES

One of the key points of contention is that the Congress fared poorly in the 2020 elections, winning only 19 of the 70 seats it contested. The Congress counters that many of the seats it was offered last time were unwinnable.

The impatience in the alliance was evident as CPI(ML)L began distributing B-Forms (symbol allotment) and instructed candidates to prepare for filing nominations starting Tuesday. The CPI(ML)L, which won 12 of the 19 seats it contested in 2020, is demanding a larger share this time. While it had scaled down its demand from 45 to 30 seats, sources said the RJD had offered only 19, the same as last time.

MONEYWISE



Average assets of sitting MLA
Rs 4.65 crore

RICHEST
Neelam Devi, Mokama, JD(U)
Rs 80.43 crore

Source: Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)

A court in Bihar's Sheikhpura district on Monday issued summonses to I.N.D.I.A bloc leaders Rahul Gandhi, Tejashwi Yadav and Mukesh Sahani in connection with alleged abuses hurled at Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Congress' Voter Adhikar Yatra in August. The order was passed by Chief Judicial Magistrate on a complaint filed by BJP leader Hiralal Singh on September 4.

BJP's first list to be out soon

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BJP's first list of candidates for the Bihar Assembly elections is expected to be released soon. Although nominations for the first phase began on October 10, the BJP and its NDA allies have yet to announce their candidates.

The party's Central Election Committee, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, met late into the night to finalise the list on Sunday. However, sources in the BJP said the announcement has been delayed due to disagreements over some of the seats.

On Sunday, the BJP announced that it will contest 101 seats, with ally JD(U) also contesting 101. Chirag Paswan's faction has been allotted 29 seats, while Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Samta Party and Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha have been given six seats each. Both Kushwaha and Manjhi have expressed dissatisfaction over Chirag's larger share.

Manjhi, who had earlier said that his party would not contest unless allotted 15 seats, eventually agreed to contest, but reluctantly. BJP sources said PM Modi called him to persuade him.

Later, speaking to reporters, Manjhi said, "What the high command has decided, we have accepted. But by giving us just six seats, they have underestimated us. It may cost the NDA in the elections."

Bihar BJP president Dilip Jaiswal with former Congress MLA Siddharth Saurav, former RJD legislator Sangeeta Kumari and former JD (U) lawmaker Sunil Kumar Pintu as they join saffron party in Patna on Monday. PTI

Kushwaha disappointed

Kushwaha also expressed disappointment. In a message to his party workers following the seat distribution, he wrote, "Dear friends/colleagues, I seek your forgiveness. The number of seats we received is not in line with your expectations. I understand this decision will hurt those who aspired to be candidates of our party."

"I am sure you all understand the constraints and limitations faced by both me and the party. I humbly request you to let the anger settle, and then you will realise for yourself whether the decision was appropriate or not," he added.

In the 2020 elections, Kushwaha's party did not contest as part of the NDA and fielded candidates in 99 seats, but failed to win any. Manjhi's HAM, which was part of the NDA, contested seven seats and won four. Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party, which had not yet split at the time, contested 135 seats and secured just one win.

JD(U) unhappy

The JD(U) is also reportedly unhappy about some of its seats being allocated to Chirag Paswan. Sources said a major portion of the additional seats given to Chirag has come from the JD(U)'s kitty, which had contested 115 seats in 2020.

JJD's Tej Pratap to contest from Mahua seat

PATNA, PTI: Tej Pratap Yadav, will contest the Bihar elections from Mahua, as his newly floated party, Janshakti Janta Dal (JJD), announced candidates for 21 seats on Monday.

Yadav, elder son of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and a former minister in the state government, floated the JJD after his father expelled him from the RJD in May.

"Our national president, Tej Pratap Yadav, will contest the Assembly elections from the Mahua constituency in Vaishali district," JJD state chief Madan Yadav said, releasing the names of candidates for 21 seats.

Tej Pratap Yadav

Yadav had represented the Mahua seat till 2020, when RJD shifted him to Hasanpur.

Yadav was expelled from the RJD for six years, a day after he "confessed" on social media to being "in a relationship" with a woman named Anushka. He, however, deleted the post later, claiming that his account was "hacked".

Prasad also disowned him, due to his "irresponsible behaviour".

Delhi riots accused Sharjeel Imam seeks interim bail to contest polls

Student activist Sharjeel Imam, an accused in the larger conspiracy behind the 2020 riots case, has sought a 14-day interim bail to file his nomination and campaign for the upcoming assembly elections in Bihar, reports PTI.

The plea before Additional Sessions Judge Sammer Bajpai said Imam, a permanent resident of Jehanabad district in Bihar, was arrested on August 25, 2020, when he was a final year PhD student in JNU, and had been incarcerated since then.

It said, "That since the applicant is a political prisoner and a student activist, he is willing to contest elections from his home state, Bihar."

STAR LINK

CPI-ML spices up Digha battle by fielding Sushant's cousin

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Divya Gautam, the cousin of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, will be the CPI-ML candidate from the prestigious Digha Assembly constituency in Patna district.

Digha is scheduled to go to the polls in the first phase on November 6.

"The Mahagathbandhan candidate list is yet to be released. We are awaiting the official announcement. In all likelihood, Divya will file her nomination papers on Wednesday," CPI-ML leader Kumar Parwez told *DH* on Monday.

Divya cleared the 64th Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) examination and qualified as a Supply Inspector in the state government service. During her graduation from Patna University, she was associated with the All India Students' Association (AISA), the student wing of the CPI-ML. She is currently pursuing a PhD.

Divya is seen as a candidate with potential appeal among women and youth. She is expected to pose a strong challenge to sitting BJP MLA Sanjeev Chaurasia, who has won from Digha in both 2015 and 2020. Chaurasia is the son of senior BJP leader and former Sikkim governor Ganga Prasad.

"The CPI-ML, which wants to upstage the BJP in its stronghold, has fielded a fresh face to project a new identity for the party and expand its presence in the state capital," a senior party leader said.

The seat-sharing arrangement within the Mahagathbandhan — which includes the RJD, Congress, CPI-ML, CPI, CPM and VIP — is reportedly in its final stages and likely to be announced in a day or two.

Among the Left parties, CPI-ML commands a larger vote base. In 2020, it contested 19 seats and won 12.

Charges framed against Lalu, Rabri, Tejashwi

Trial in IRCTC case to begin on Oct 27 ahead of Bihar polls

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Just days before the Bihar Assembly polls, a Delhi court on Monday framed charges against former chief ministers Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi, and their son and Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav in the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) scam case.

Terming former railway minister Lalu Prasad as the "fountainhead of criminal conspiracy", special judge Vishal Gogne paved the way for the day-to-day trial of the case against the three members of the Yadav family and 11 others from October 27.

RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi and son Tejashwi Yadav at Rouse Avenue Court for hearing. PTI

The trial would proceed under various provisions of the IPC and the Prevention of Corruption Act for offences including criminal conspiracy, cheating, abusing their official position, and criminal misconduct by public servants.

In his 244-page order, the judge cited the "quid pro quo" aspect in the case after the CBI accused the Yadav family of manipulating IRCTC tenders and illegal land transfer.

Lalu (77) is accused of conspiring during his tenure as the railway minister with the Kochhar brothers — Vijay and Vinay, both directors of M/s Sujata Hotel Private Limited, owners of Hotel Chanakya, Patna — and others to extend undue favours to the firm in awarding contracts for sub-leasing the Railway's BNR Hotels in Ranchi and Puri.

In return, the Kochhars allegedly sold a prime plot of land in Patna to a company controlled by Lalu's close aide Prem Chand Gupta and his associates. This company was later taken over by Yadav's family members, with the property transferred to them at a nominal price, according to the CBI chargesheet. Lalu, Rabri, and Tejashwi pleaded "not guilty" and claimed trial after the charges were read over to them by the judge.

The two-phase Bihar Assembly elections will be held on November 6 and 11. The RJD, headed by Lalu, is one of the major political parties in the state, and heads the Opposition alliance Mahagathbandhan, in which the Congress is also a constituent.

The BJP launched a blistering attack on the RJD, claiming scams, manipulation in awarding government contracts, and taking people's land after promising jobs were its model of governance.

Opposition to boycott JPC on Bills to remove tainted PM, CMs

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The entire I.N.D.I.A bloc will boycott the Joint Committee of Parliament to examine the contentious Bills for the removal of top political executives detained in jail for at least 30 days in a row, and this has been conveyed to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, opposition sources said on Monday.

The Joint Committee to examine the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, and the Union Territories Administration (Amendment) Bill has not been constituted so far, though the motion was cleared by Lok Sabha on August 20 and a day later in Rajya Sabha due to the Opposition's non-cooperation.

The I.N.D.I.A bloc has been delaying a decision, as there has been a difference of opinion over not participating in the proceedings of the Joint Committee, with parties like CPI(M) preferring to be part of it and the Congress remaining divided over the issue, while Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party and Shiv Sena (UBT), as well as AAP announcing a boycott of the panel individually.

I.N.D.I.A sources said a senior Congress parliamentary manager has conveyed the decision of the Opposition parties to boycott the Joint Committee, which will examine the Bills proposing removal of the PM, CMs and Union and state ministers if they are detained in custody for 30 days in a row in cases that attract a jail term of at least five years.

CPI(M), which was in favour of joining the proceedings, will also join other I.N.D.I.A parties in the move. The party's RS floor leader John Brittas told *DH*, "The spirit of the Opposition is to stay together. Certain parties have already gone ahead, and there should not be any division. CPI(M) is with that spirit of unity."

Trinamool, Samajwadi Party, Shiv Sena (UBT), and AAP had announced the decision to boycott the panel within days of Parliament sending the Bill for Parliament scrutiny. At the I.N.D.I.A bloc floor leaders' meeting, Trinamool had mooted the idea of a boycott, but CPI(M) and RSP leaders were of the view that boycotting it was not prudent, as they would not have an official platform to record their opposition.

Congress was also divided on the issue, but the leadership felt that the party cannot ignore the sentiments in the bloc. It persuaded parties like CPI(M) to accept the dominant view in the group.

Kerala CM refutes reports of ED summons to son

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said he was unaware of the Enforcement Directorate issuing any summons to his son in 2023.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Vijayan alleged that attempts were being made to tarnish his image through baseless allegations. He said he was proud of his son and daughter, Veena T, for never causing him any damage, unlike several instances where children of chief ministers and other public figures had brought disrepute to their families.

Pinarayi Vijayan

"I haven't seen any summons issued by the ED to my son. He is working abroad and hasn't mentioned receiving any such notice. He leads a very low-profile life. I'm proud that my children have never caused any damage to my career, unlike the children of many others in power," Vijayan said.

Referring to CPM leader MA Baby's statement that ED officials had withdrawn the summons after finding it baseless, Vijayan said Baby may have been misled by reports suggesting such a summons had been issued.

Shiv Sena (UBT) pushes for Raj Thackeray's entry into MVA

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Differences are emerging within the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra over the possible entry of the Raj Thackeray-led MNS into the Opposition alliance, amid back-to-back meetings between the Thackeray cousins, Uddhav and Raj.

The Uddhav-led Shiv Sena (UBT) is advocating for MNS inclusion, but the Congress, which leads the I.N.D.I.A bloc, has not yet taken a position. With the Bihar elections approaching, the Congress appears reluctant to commit, partly due to Raj's stance on migrant workers.

Several Congress leaders prefer contesting the upcoming civic polls independently, including the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation.

State Congress president Harshavardhan Sapkal said the party does not object to meetings between the Thackeray cousins. "Decisions about who joins the I.N.D.I.A alliance will be made collectively by its constituent parties," he said.

Raj Thackeray

An "all-party delegation" will meet the Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer on Tuesday to discuss electoral matters. Raj will join the team.

'No decision yet'

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut, said the MNS wants Congress to be included in discussions. Asked whether Raj is ready to join the MVA, he said: "Even Raj desires that the Congress should be taken along... but this does not mean any decision has been taken."

Raut said he had spoken to AICC general secretary KC Venugopal and would also discuss issues with Rahul Gandhi, while Uddhav would speak to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge.

MNS leader Bala Nandgaonkar confirmed the delegation would include Sharad Pawar, Uddhav, Raj, Sapkal, Varsha Gaikwad, Prakash Reddy, Subhash Lande, and Rais Shaikh. Devendra Fadnavis and his deputies Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar have also been invited.

ED raids company that made 'killer syrup'; TN govt revokes licence

Fresh audits of pharmaceutical firms in Tami Nadu announced

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

In a new twist, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday joined the investigation into the death of 21 children in Madhya Pradesh due to a contaminated cough syrup by conducting searches at seven locations, including at the factory that made the medicine, in Kanchipuram and Chennai under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Even as the raids were underway, the Tamil Nadu Health Department revoked all licences awarded to Sresan Pharmaceuticals for manufacturing medicines and announced the permanent closure of its factory in Sunguvarchatiram in Kanchipuram district near here. The government also announced a fresh audit of pharmaceutical companies based out of the state to check whether rules and regulations are being followed.

The searches by the ED covered the residences of G Ranganathan, the owner of the firm that produced Coldrif, which led to the death of 21 children, P U Karthikeyan, who was the acting director of the Tamil Nadu Drug Control Department, and two suspended officials – Deepa Joseph and K Karthikeyan.

The factory and a warehouse of the pharmaceutical company in Kanchipuram district were also searched.

Ranganathan, who was arrested on October 9, is currently in judicial custody in Madhya Pradesh. P U Karthikeyan was arrested in July 2025 after he was caught red-handed by the sleuths of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) for allegedly receiving a bribe of Rs 25,000 from a soap manufacturer for granting a licence.

Sources in the ED told *DH* that the agency has taken cognisance of two FIRs filed by the Madhya Pradesh police over the deaths of 21 children and by DVAC against P U Karthikeyan in July this year as predicate offences to initiate the probe.

"We are conducting raids at seven locations in Chennai and Kanchipuram. We are probing the case under the PMLA," the source said, adding that they will question the arrested owner of the company if needed.

During the searches, the sleuths recovered computers and other electronic devices to go through emails and inspection documents to see whether there was any deliberate oversight in monitoring the manufacturing unit.

The investigation by the ED also comes amid a blame game between the Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu governments over the death of the children due to the contaminated syrup

Zubeen Garg's death: Wife demands justice within 10 days

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Worried over the growing politics around the process of the investigation, singer Zubeen Garg's wife Garima has demanded justice within 10 days.

Garima, who recently launched an online campaign named #JusticeforZubeen, made the demand amid agitation programmes being lined up by both political and non-political organisations demanding justice for the iconic singer's family and fans. "We need Zubeen Garg Justice within 10 days," Garima posted on social media on Sunday night.

She made the demand hours after Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday evening claimed the forensic report on Zubeen's viscera samples provided a "specific direction" to the special investigation team (SIT) probing the singer's death in Singapore on September 19. The CM, however, did not disclose the reports' contents.

Reacting to Garima's demand, M P Gupta — the special director general of police and head of the SIT — told reporters here on Monday that the team was working "round the clock" to reach a "logical conclusion" in the case.

Meanwhile, the All Assam Students' Union has decided to launch an agitation from Tuesday, seeking justice for Zubeen's family and fans.

New CRDA headquarters inaugurated in Amaravati

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Nearly eight years after it was first conceived, the long-delayed project to construct the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) headquarters in Amaravati, the core capital of Andhra Pradesh, was inaugurated on Monday.

The CRDA Act came into effect in 2015, and a central office was launched in 2017 during the previous N Chandrababu Naidu regime.

The project was stalled due to legal complications arising from the YSRCP government's three-capital proposal, which pushed all Amaravati-related initiatives, including the CRDA office, to the backburner. On Monday, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the APCRDA Project Office in Amaravati, marking the first completed building of the grand Amaravati capital city project.

Originally envisioned in 2017, the project was designed to establish a permanent administrative headquarters for the APCRDA and allied institutions. Strategically located near Seed Access Road at the E3–N11 junction, the complex spans 4.32 acres and comprises a G+7 main building along with four Pre-Engineered Building (PEB) structures.

The main building, with a built-up area of 3,07,326 sq. ft., forms the core of the establishment, while the PEB structures, covering 1,66,000 sq. ft., house several key departments and institutions. The total project cost is estimated at Rs 373.20 crore — Rs 257.20 crore for the main building and Rs 116 crore for the PEB blocks.

The AP CRDA project office has been awarded the Net Zero Energy (Design) certification by the Indian Green Building Council, recognising the building's adherence to the IGBC Net Zero Energy Rating System.

The main building houses the offices of APCRDA, Amaravati Development Corporation Limited (ADCL), and the Chamber of the Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development.

Relief eludes Kerala families despite HC ruling in waqf land row

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The wait for over 600 families seeking restoration of their revenue rights over land in Munambam, Kochi, may continue despite a recent high court verdict declaring the waqf board's claim over the disputed land as illegal.

A high-level meeting convened by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday decided only to place the matter before the Cabinet for further discussion, based on the findings of the Justice CN Ramachandran Nair Commission report.

The affected residents of Munambam, who have been protesting for over a year, are now looking to the government with renewed hope for swift action to restore their land rights.

Joseph Benny, leader of the Munambam residents' action council, told *DH* that the HC division bench had clearly ruled the waqf declaration of the land as illegal, and the state government could now rely on that verdict in other pending cases.

"We are confident that our revenue rights can be restored based on the ruling. The state government has assured us that necessary steps will be taken," he said.

With the waqf land protection forums planning to challenge the HC verdict in the Supreme Court, the legal battle over the disputed land is likely to drag on.

Meanwhile, the BJP on Monday staged a protest at the local village office, demanding that the revenue rights of the landowners be restored.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

BOY, THAT SPAGHETTI SAUCE SURE SMELLS GOOD
THANKS, HONEY
ALTHOUGH I'D PROBABLY HAVE ADDED A BIT MORE GARLIC...
SPAGHETTI SAUCE ALWAYS NEEDS EXTRA GARLIC
I COULD HAVE LIVED WITHOUT EXTRA GARLIC
7-7

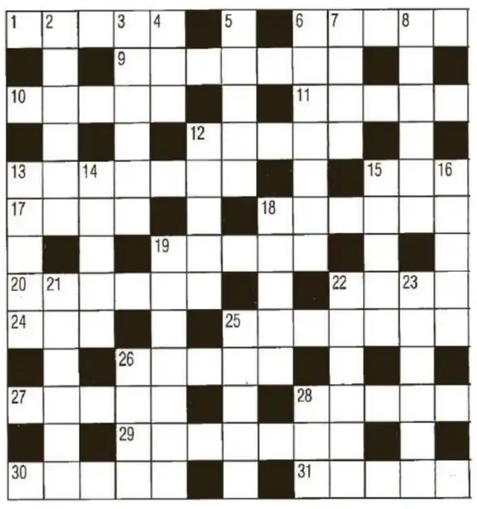
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12266



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 The outcome of the exercise (5)
6 For airmen, hopping on this is a low practice (5)
9 Mother suffered from being badly spoken (7)
10 Sound the organ made (5)
11 It's foolish to be very close to the bat (5)
12 Feel one has to check out conflicting directions (5)
13 Stories of explosions (7)
15 Look on the initial ball as a high one! (3)
17 Nothing but clamour in Valhalla (4)
18 Where the boats are, of course, nominally female (6)
19 To me, half London can be at the waterside! (5)
20 Dog, red as the evening sun? (6)
22 In making a pit, soil is disturbed (4)
24 Actually it's longer than a summer afternoon! (3)
25 Player in a dramatic substitution (5-2)
26 Maybe Tim's a hothead with this surname (5)
27 Bad organisation (5)
28 You can shift it out of satin (5)
29 Great movie (7)
30 Well-known in association with a medium (5)
31 Pulls out of a hotel because of the ruffians (5)

DOWN
2 The war at sea started to hot up! (6)
3 Female deadlier than the male (6)
4 Vessel used by stunt men (3)
5 Might their music produce boos out East? (5)
6 It's a bit like sacking a German (7)
7 A fat free diet is too much for her (4)
8 Quantity maybe nearly all gone (6)
12 Direct the short way at all times (5)
13 Agitate for the right to fresh running water (5)
14 Such bread lets you fill the hollow within (5)
15 Numerals in black and blue (5)
16 One a policeman may have to nab, possibly? (5)
18 Filling it may be a piece of cake (5)
19 There's only a dimmer possibility that she exists! (7)
21 Not a single mistake! (6)
22 Pinch one's nose (6)
23 Quick to provide a cleric's need (6)
25 Dried plant product, a treatment for warts (5)
26 That of the building opposite? (4)
28 It's wrong to take a rest! (3)

ACROSS
1 Warehouse (5)
6 Frolics (5)
9 Uproar (7)
10 Post off (5)
11 Befits (5)
12 Merges (5)
13 Shortage (7)
15 Male swan (3)
17 Soon (4)
18 Leisurely walk (6)
19 Annoyed (5)
20 A dogsbody (6)
22 Speed contest (4)
24 Sweet potato (3)
25 Cultivate (7)
26 Card game (5)
27 Provide food (5)
28 Apt to cry (5)
29 Gymnast's costume (7)
30 Nuisances (5)
31 Screams (5)

DOWN
2 Number (6)
3 Source (6)
4 Sound of disapproval (3)
5 Swagger (5)
6 Flower-shaped badge (7)
7 Burden (4)
8 Car fuel (6)
12 Filament (5)
13 Beau (5)
14 Assembly (5)
15 Pinkish-orange colour (5)
16 Electronic sound (5)
18 Guide (5)
19 Disregards (7)
21 Plunder (6)
22 Ebb (6)
23 Force (6)
25 Decease (5)
26 Animal skin (4)
28 Dryly humorous (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12265

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, C-h-ops 8, Ur-ban 10, How-L-s 11, Rut 12, Cap-on 13, Wash-out 15, Ni-gel 18, War 19, Recite 21, Par-ried 22, Ug-L-y 23, Blue 24, Sellers 26, Staged 29, A-RE 31, S-idle 32, Fiancee 34, Assam (rev.) 35, Dud 36, Tessa 37, Hardy 38, Swell.
DOWN: 1, Ar-ray 2, Pathway 4, Heat 5, Ph-one-D 6, Sonic 7, F-L eet 9, Bus 12, Curried 14, O-ar 16, Girls 17, Level (rev.) 19, Re claim 20, Guess 21, P-lead 23, Bren-Dan 24, Seesaw 25, Era (rev.) 27, Ti-L-es 28, G-lass 30, Teddy 32, Fa-I-l 33, Cur(-ed).

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Sorts 8, Dishy; 10, Eyrie 11, Die 12, Wager 13, Parasol 15, Tie in 18, Tor 19, Chance 21, Brusque 22, Free 23, Bend 24, Lighter 26, Asleep 29, Ion 31, Leers 32, However 34, Ashen 35, Ail 36, Torso 37, Steal 38, Enjoy.
DOWN: 1, Midas 2, Theatre 4, Oral 5, Teethe 6, Syria 7, Mimic 9, Sir 12, Worship 14, Sou 16, Enter 17, Needy 19, Cushion 20, Offal 21, Belle 23, Beneath 24, Lesson 25, Tow 27, Senor 28, Erase 30, Relax 32, Hero 33, Vie.

◆SU-DO-KU-6725◆

			4				7	
2				3		4		
	4	6			5			
3	2	8	6					7
	7						9	
9					7	8	4	3
			7			1	2	
		5		8				6
	8				3			

medium

3	6	7	8	9	5	1	2	4
2	1	5	6	4	3	8	9	7
4	8	9	2	1	7	5	6	3
7	3	6	1	5	2	9	4	8
8	9	1	4	3	6	2	7	5
5	2	4	9	7	8	3	1	6
9	7	2	3	8	4	6	5	1
1	5	3	7	6	9	4	8	2
6	4	8	5	2	1	7	3	9

SOLUTION TO 6724

To solve the puzzle:
To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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S1 M3 H4 U1 O1 E1 G2 — Double Word Score
A1 A1 A1 U1 G2 G2 Q10 — Triple Word Score
I1 C3 S1 R1 E1 I1 H4
I1 E1 E1 W4 V4 S1 R1

RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 130-140
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1 C3 A1 R1 V4 E1 S1
S1 H4 R1 I1 L1 L1
M3 I1 L1 K5 M3 A1 N1
W4 R1 O1 N1 G2 S1

RACK 1 = 62
RACK 2 = 9
RACK 3 = 65
RACK 4 = 10
JUDD'S TOTAL 146

PAR SCORE 95-105

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HMTUP
MAHES
LRIFYA
RPXTEO

Wow! Here's the problem. This should help.
I can already tell how much clearer everything sounds.
4/5
THE PROBLEM WITH HIS EARS WAS JUST WAX BUILDUP, WHICH HE WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLISS CLUCK SQUISH SUDDEN
Answer: If you want to talk about a certain track-and-field event, then you can — DISCUSS DISCUS

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HITORI-3179

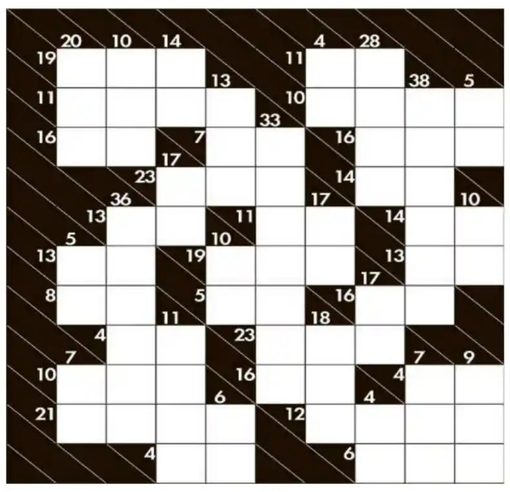
5	5	8	4	7	3	5	6
5	5	4	6	2	5	8	3
2	4	6	3	5	5	4	8
5	8	3	2	4	1	5	7
1	3	7	8	8	6	4	5
7	6	1	2	6	8	2	4
8	1	5	4	4	7	6	2
4	5	5	1	8	5	3	6

SOLUTION TO 3178

■	5	6	■	3	8	■	7
4	7	■	8	2	■	3	1
8	■	4	1	■	3	2	■
1	3	■	6	5	4	7	2
■	2	5	4	1	7	■	3
5	■	7	■	8	■	1	■
2	4	3	5	■	1	8	6
7	■	1	3	4	2	6	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3179



SOLUTION TO 3178

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3705

■				1				4
	4		5				■	3
7		■		3		8		
			■		■			6
4				■	9	1		
	6	9	■	8	■	7		
		■				2		1
	■		1		5		■	
■			2		8			■

SOLUTION TO 3704

2	9	6	4	1	5	3	7	8
7	5	8	6	2	3	9	4	1
3	1	4	7	8	9	5	2	6
1	6	5	3	4	2	7	8	9
4	2	3	8	9	7	1	6	5
8	7	9	1	5	6	4	3	2
5	4	7	2	6	1	8	9	3
9	3	2	5	7	8	6	1	4
6	8	1	9	3	4	2	5	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Timeline: Gaza-Israel war (2023-25)

Oct 7, 2023: Hamas launched an assault on Israel, sending militants across the border. About 1,200 Israelis were killed and over 240 hostages taken

Oct-Dec 2023: Israel carried out massive airstrikes and a ground invasion. Gaza faced a humanitarian crisis, with thousands of civilian casualties

Nov 24-Dec 1, 2023: A four-day truce mediated by Qatar, Egypt, and the US began on November 24. 50 Israeli hostages freed in exchange for 150 Palestinian prisoners

Jan 15-Mar 1, 2025: Another truce. Israel released 1,900 prisoners for 33 hostages. Failed on March 1 after Hamas rejected Israeli extension plan

Aug- Oct 2025: Egypt and Qatar presented a new deal incorporating earlier terms. A comprehensive ceasefire was signed in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, mediated by the US

No more things to achieve on the battlefield, US President tells Israeli lawmakers

'TIME TO FOCUS ON PEACE'

JERUSALEM, AP/PTI

US President Donald Trump told Israeli lawmakers on Monday that their country had no more to achieve on the battlefield and must now focus on peace in the Middle East after two years of war against Hamas and skirmishes with Hezbollah and Iran.

Although the US-brokered truce between Israel and Hamas remains fragile, Trump is determined to seize the opportunity to pursue regional harmony.

"Generations from now, this will be remembered as the moment that everything began to change," he declared to the Knesset, which welcomed him as a hero.

"Israel, with our help, has won all that they can by force of arms," Trump said. "You've won. Now it is time to translate these victories against terrorists on the battlefield into the ultimate prize of peace and prosperity for the entire Middle East."

Trump promised to help rebuild Gaza, devastated during the conflict, and urged Palestinians to "turn forever from the path of terror and violence."

"After tremendous pain, death, and hardship, now is the time to concentrate on building their people up instead of trying to tear Israel down," he added.

Trump also offered a gesture to Iran, where he bombed three nuclear sites earlier this year, saying: "The hand of friendship and cooperation is always open."

He will continue to Egypt for a summit with more than two dozen nations, although speeches at the Knesset ran long. "They might not be there by the time I get there, but we'll give it a shot," Trump joked.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected to join but later withdrew due to the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah.

Twenty hostages were released on Monday under the ceasefire agreement that began on Oct. 7, 2023, following a Hamas-led attack. Trump may meet some at the Sheba Medical Center and spoke with families at the Knesset.

Lawmakers chanted Trump's name and gave him a standing ovation. Some audience members wore red hats resembling his "Make America Great Again" caps, reading instead "Trump, The Peace President." Netanyahu hailed Trump as "the greatest friend Israel has ever had in the White House" and pledged to work with him on peace.

The ceasefire's first phase calls for the release of remaining hostages held by Hamas, hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israel, a surge of humanitarian aid to Gaza, and a partial pullback of Israeli forces from Gaza's main cities.

With families overjoyed at reunions and Palestinians anticipating aid, Trump believes there is a narrow window to reshape the region. "The war is over, OK?" Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One. "I think people are tired of it," emphasising that he believed the ceasefire would hold.

Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinians erupted with joy in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis on Monday, as Red Cross buses brought back nearly 1,700 former prisoners. Some climbed the sides of the slowly-moving buses as they weaved their way through the dense crowds gathered at Nasser Hospital, to hug or kiss a loved one they recognised.

"The greatest joy is seeing my whole family gathered to welcome me," Yusef Afana, a 25-year-old released prisoner from north Gaza, told AFP.

"I spent 10 months in prison -- some of the hardest days I've ever lived. The pain in prison isn't only physical; it's pain in the soul," he said, adding, like many of his comrades, that he hoped for all other prisoners in Israeli jails to be released soon. At Nasser Hospital, men in military fatigues and black balaclavas struggled to keep order as the prisoners wearing the Israel Prison Service's grey jumpsuits came off the buses.

A man greets a freed Palestinian prisoner released by Israel as part of a hostages-prisoners swap and a ceasefire deal between Hamas and Israel, in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, on Monday. REUTERS

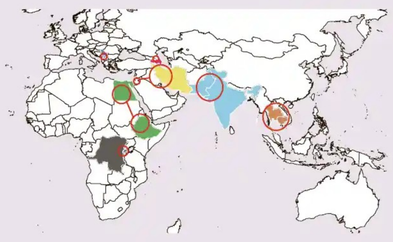
Released Israeli hostage Evyatar David reacts upon arrival at the site of Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva, Israel, on Monday. REUTERS

Palestine's key demands

- Full pullout of Israeli troops from all parts of Gaza.
- End the Israeli-Egyptian blockade to allow free movement of people and goods
- Freedom for thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
- Recognition of Palestine as an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital

Israel's key objectives

- Elimination of Hamas
- Safe release of all Israeli hostages abducted by Hamas.
- Demilitarisation of Gaza
- International monitoring or Arab-led security forces to ensure Hamas or similar groups do not regain control
- Recognition of Israel's right to exist



Trump's claim of ending 8 wars

US President Donald Trump claimed ending the Gaza-Israel war was the eighth war he had settled. According to Trump, the list includes:

- India-Pakistan (disputed by India)
- Israel-Iran
- Armenia-Azerbaijan
- Egypt-Ethiopia
- Serbia-Kosovo
- Rwanda-Congo
- Thailand-Cambodia
- Israel-Hamas (Gaza war)

"THE WAR IS OVER...
...Now it is time to translate this into the ultimate prize of peace and prosperity. - Donald Trump
I am committed to this peace... We'll achieve this peace. I promise to work with you (Trump) to ensure that peace prevails.
Benjamin Netanyahu
This is a great hope for the region...But the expansion of settlements is an existential threat to peace.
Emmanuel Macron
French president
India welcomes the release of all hostages and pledges support for President Trump's Gaza plan.
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Trump suggests temporary role for Hamas

REUTERS: United States President Donald Trump suggested Hamas had been given a greenlight for internal security operations it is conducting in the Gaza Strip, saying the group wants "to stop the problems" and "we gave them approval for a period of time".

The Palestinian militant group, which must disarm and end its rule of Gaza under Trump's proposal for ending the war, has deployed internal security forces in parts of the Gaza Strip since a ceasefire came into effect on Friday, saying it aims to stop lawlessness and looting and prevent a security vacuum.

Asked by a journalist aboard Air Force One about reports that Hamas was instituting itself as a police force and shooting rivals, Trump said, "They do want to stop the problems, and they've been open about it, and we gave them approval for a period of time".

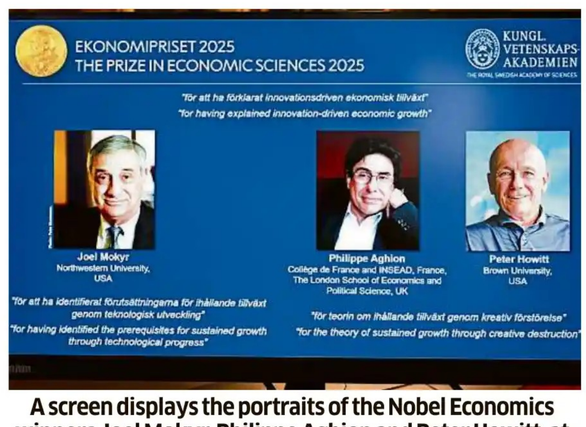
"You have close to 2 million people going back to buildings that have been demolished, and a lot of bad things can happen. So we want it to be - we want it to be safe. I think it's going to be fine. Who knows for sure," Trump said. Much of Gaza has been turned into a wasteland during the war ignited by Hamas' October 7, 2023 attacks on Israel.

Hamas security forces have been clashing with members of a clan in Gaza City over the last two days.

The Hamas Interior Ministry issued a statement on Sunday offering an amnesty to people it said had joined outlawed gangs responsible for stealing humanitarian aid and looting, on condition they were not involved in bloodshed.

Meanwhile, a greatly weakened Hamas has sought to reassert itself in Gaza since a ceasefire took hold, killing dozens of people in a crackdown on groups that have tested its grip and appearing to get a US nod to temporarily police the shattered enclave.

Hamas has gradually sent its men back into the streets of Gaza since the ceasefire began on Friday, moving cautiously in case it suddenly collapses, according to two security sources in the territory. On Monday, Hamas deployed members of its Qassam Brigades military wing as it freed the last living hostages seized two years ago.


EKONOMIPRISET 2025
THE PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES 2025
KUNGL. VETENSKAPS-AKADEMIEN
"för att ha förklarat innovationsdriven ekonomisk tillväxt"
"for having explained innovation-driven economic growth"
Joel Mokyr
Northwestern University, USA
Philippe Aghion
Collège de France and INSEAD, France, The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
Peter Howitt
Brown University, USA
"för att ha identifierat förutsättningarna för ihållande tillväxt genom teknologisk utveckling"
"for having identified the prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress"
"för teorin om ihållande tillväxt genom kreativ förstörelse"
"for the theory of sustained growth through creative destruction"

A screen displays the portraits of the Nobel Economics winners Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt, at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. AFP

Trio wins economics Nobel for work on tech-driven growth

They revealed the scientific roots of sustained economic development

STOCKHOLM, AFP

The Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded on Monday to American-Israeli Joel Mokyr, France's Philippe Aghion, and Canada's Peter Howitt for their work on how technology drives and affects growth.

Mokyr, 79, won one half of the prize "for having identified the prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

Aghion, 69, and Howitt, 79, shared the other half "for the theory of sustained growth through creative destruction," it added. John Hassler, chair of the prize panel, said their work answered questions about how technological innovation drives growth and how sustained growth can be maintained. "During almost all of humankind's history, living standards did not change noticeably from generation to generation. Economic growth was, on average, zero, and stagnation was the norm," Hassler said. "But over the last two centuries, things have been very different."

"During the last 200 years, the world has seen more economic growth than ever before in human history," Kerstin Enflo, a member of the economics prize committee, explained. She cautioned, however, that "200 years is still just a short period compared to the long-run history of stagnation that we saw before." "The laureates' work reminds us that we should not take progress for granted. Instead, society must keep an eye on the factors that generate and sustain economic growth," Enflo said.

Mokyr, a professor at Northwestern University in the US, "used historical sources as one means to uncover the causes of sustained growth becoming the new normal," the jury said. He demonstrated that if "innovations are to succeed one another in a self-generating process, we not only need to know that something works, but we also need scientific explanations for why."

"The latter was often lacking prior to the Industrial Revolution, which made it difficult to build upon new discoveries and inventions."

Madagascar's president flees country after Gen Z protests

ANTANANARIVO, REUTERS: Madagascar's president has fled the African nation, the head of the opposition and other officials said on Monday, the second time that young protesters have toppled a government in weeks of worldwide Gen Z unrest.

Siteny Randrianasoloniaiko, leader of the opposition in parliament, told Reuters Rajoelina left Madagascar on Sunday after units of the army defected and joined the protesters. "We called the staff of the presidency and they confirmed that he left the country", he said, adding that Rajoelina's current whereabouts were unknown.

The president's office, which had earlier said Rajoelina would address the nation at 7:00 pm (1600 GMT) on Monday, did not reply to requests for comment. A military source told Reuters that Rajoelina flew out of the country on a French military aircraft on Sunday. French radio RFI said he had struck a deal with President Emmanuel Macron.

The source said that a French Army Casa aircraft landed in Madagascar's Sainte Marie airport on Sunday. "Five minutes later, a helicopter arrived and transferred its passenger into the Casa," the source said, adding that Rajoelina was the passenger. Demonstrations had erupted in the former French colony on September 25 over water and power shortages but quickly escalated into an uprising over broader grievances, including corruption, bad governance and lack of basic services.

The anger mirrors recent protests against ruling elites in countries including Nepal, where the prime minister was forced to resign last month, and Morocco. Rajoelina had appeared increasingly isolated after losing the support of CAPSAT, an elite unit which had helped him seize power in a 2009 coup. CAPSAT joined the protesters over the weekend, saying it refused to shoot on them and escorting thousands of demonstrators in the main square of the capital Antananarivo.

Palestinians should turn away from 'terror': US Prez

JERUSALEM, AFP: US President Donald Trump warned Monday that the Palestinian people should turn away from "terror and violence" as he hailed a recently-minted ceasefire in Gaza in an address to Israel's parliament.

To cheers and ovations from Knesset members, Trump said the truce in the two-year-old war -- triggered by a brutal Hamas cross-border assault on October 7, 2023 -- could be a turning point for the entire Middle East.

"And the choice for Palestinians could not be more clear," he said. "This is their chance to turn forever from the path of terror and violence: To exile the wicked forces of hate that are in their midst, and I think that's going to happen."

More than 67,869 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since Israel launched its response to the Hamas attack, and almost all the more than two million civilians who lived there before the war have been driven from their homes at least once.

Gaza is more than ever dependent on humanitarian aid and its cities lie in ruins. But, under pressure from Trump to claim a win, Israel agreed on Friday to a ceasefire and on Monday released around 2,000 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the return of Hamas's remaining 20 living Israeli hostages.

Trump told the Knesset that now was the time for Palestinians to move on. After tremendous pain and death and hardship, now is the time to concentrate on building their people up instead of trying to tear Israel down. We don't want that to happen again," Trump said.

"And the total focus of Gazans must be on restoring the fundamentals of stability, safety, dignity and economic development so they can finally have the better life their children really do deserve after all these decades of horror."

To do this, he argued, Palestinians should get behind his Gaza plan, which would see him head up a so-called "Peace Board" overseeing an interim administration.

Trump's peace claim: India-Pak among 8 'resolved' wars

NEW YORK, PTI: After missing the Nobel Peace Prize, United States President Donald Trump has claimed to have resolved eight wars, including the one between India and Pakistan.

Trump has been claiming to resolve seven conflicts till now, including the one between India and Pakistan. However, he has now increased that figure to eight after adding the Israel-Gaza conflict.

While talking to reporters on board Air Force One on Sunday, Trump also hinted at planning to resolve the ongoing conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"This will be my eighth war that I have solved, and I hear there is a war now going on between Pakistan and Afghanistan. I said, I'll have to wait till I get back. I am doing another one. Because I am good at solving wars. I am good at making peace," Trump said.

Dutch govt takes control of Chinese-owned chipmaker

THE HAGUE, AP/PTI

The Dutch government took effective control of Chinese-owned chipmaker Nexperia in what it said was a "highly exceptional" move over worries that corporate governance shortcomings pose a potential risk to European economic security.

In a statement late Sunday, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs said it had invoked the rarely used Goods Availability Act to intervene in the business of Nexperia, which makes semiconductors used in the automotive and consumer technology industries. Nexperia is based in the Dutch city of Nijmegen, but it's owned by China's Wingtech Technology. Concerns about Nexperia's governance "posed a threat to the continuity and safeguarding on Dutch and European soil of crucial technological knowledge and capabilities," the ministry said. "Losing these capabilities could pose a risk to Dutch and European economic security," it said, without elaborating.

The government provided few details about its decision to invoke the act, but the manoeuvre underscores wider geopolitical tensions between China and the West over the development and mastery of advanced technologies like computer chips.

Nexperia did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Wingtech said in a social media post that it "firmly opposes the politicisation of commercial matters."

Wingtech called the Dutch government's action "an excessive intervention based on geopolitical bias rather than a fact-based risk assessment" that's based on the "unfounded pretext of national security."

Wingtech shares slumped 10 per cent - the daily limit - on the Shanghai Stock Exchange. Wingtech told the exchange that the decision "temporarily restricts" its control over Nexperia. The Dutch government said it wanted to prevent a situation in which Nexperia's chips would "become unavailable in an emergency."

Macron rejects calls for resignation

PARIS, REUTERS: French President Emmanuel Macron rejected calls to resign and blasted his opponents on Monday, as his latest government was threatened by two no-confidence motions that could bring it down by the end of the week.

Macron has burned through five prime ministers in less than two years, and many of his rivals have said the only way out of the crisis is for the president to call fresh legislative elections or resign.

Shortly after arriving in Egypt on Monday, Macron was defiant. "I ensure continuity and stability, and I will continue to do so," he said.

Russia warns US Tomahawks to Ukraine could backfire

MOSCOW, REUTERS

Former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev said on Monday that supplying US Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine could end badly for everyone, particularly US President Donald Trump.

Medvedev, an arch-hawk who has repeatedly goaded Trump on social media, said it is impossible to distinguish between Tomahawk missiles carrying nuclear warheads and conventional ones after they are launched—a point also made by President Vladimir Putin's spokesman.

"How should Russia respond? Exactly!" Medvedev said on Telegram, appearing to hint that Moscow's response could be nuclear.

A view of an apartment building damaged by Russian military strike in Kostiantynivka, Ukraine, on Sunday. REUTERS

Trump reiterated on Sunday that he may offer long-range Tomahawk missiles to Kyiv if Putin does not end the war in Ukraine.

"Yeah, I might tell him (Putin), if the war is not settled, we may very well do it," Trump said. "We may not, but we may do it... Do they want to have Tomahawks going in their direction? I don't think so."

Medvedev commented: "One can only hope that this is another empty threat... Like sending nuclear submarines closer to Russia." He was alluding to Trump's statement in August that he had ordered two nuclear submarines to move closer to Russia in response to what he called "highly provocative" comments from Medvedev about the risk of war.

Putin has warned that supplying Ukraine with Tomahawks—which have a range of 2,500 km (1,550 miles) and could strike anywhere within European Russia, including Moscow—would destroy relations between the US and Russia. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine would only use Tomahawk missiles for military purposes and would not attack civilians in Russia, should the US provide them.

Retail inflation cools to an 8-year low of 1.54% in Sept

This is largely attributed to lower food prices

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation cooled to an 8-year low of 1.54% in September. This is the lowest year-on-year inflation since June 2017. In August, it was 2.07%, according to government data.

The CPI-based inflation for September 2024 stood at 5.49%.

"The decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of September, 2025 is mainly attributed to favorable base effect and decline in inflation of vegetables, oil and fats, fruits, pulses, cereal, egg, fuel and light etc," the National Statistics Office (NSO) said in a statement.

The year-on-year inflation rate based on All India Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) for the month of September, 2025 over September, 2024 was -2.28% (provisional). Corresponding inflation rates for rural and urban areas were -2.17% and -2.47%, respectively. A decrease of 164 basis points was observed in food inflation in September, 2025 in comparison to August, 2025. The food inflation in September, 2025 is the lowest after December, 2018.

"The soft September CPI inflation continues to point towards the persistence of a benign inflationary environment. While much of the moderation has been led by food prices, the core inflation has surged due to housing. We expect the pass through of GST cut to be more visible in the upcoming October reading, likely pushing the print to sub-1%. Overall the benign inflation and growth trajectory does provide room for 25-50 bps rate cuts. However, the festive linked surge in retail sales may make it difficult to gauge the underlying sustainable demand in the economy and hence the timing of easing may become more difficult," said Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist, Kotak Mahindra Bank.

A decrease in headline and food inflation in the rural sector was observed in September, 2025. The headline inflation is 1.07% (provisional) in September, 2025 while it was 1.69% in August, 2025. The CFPI based food inflation in the rural sector is observed as -2.17% (provisional) in September, 2025 in comparison to -0.70% in August, 2025, the NSO data showed.

A decrease from 2.47% in August, 2025 to 2.04% (provisional) in September, 2025 is observed in headline inflation of the urban sector. Decrease is also observed in food inflation from -0.53% in August, 2025 to -2.47% (provisional) in September, 2025, NSO said.

The price data are collected from selected 1,181 villages and 1,114 urban markets covering all States/UTs through personal visits by field staff of Field Operations Division of NSO, MoSPI on a weekly roster. During the month of September 2025, NSO collected prices from 99.83% villages and 98.56% urban markets while the market-wise prices reported therein were 88.14% for rural and 92.01% for urban.

Inflation will remain within a comfortable range over the next two quarters, supported by adequate food supplies, moderate energy costs, and prudent monetary management by the Reserve Bank of India, said Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI.

"The record-low inflation offers a strong foundation for India's next phase of growth. It is a moment of opportunity to revitalize private investment, stimulate consumption, and accelerate job creation," said Rajeev Juneja, President, PHDCCI.

HCLTech Q2 net profit flat at Rs 4,235 crore

Company to roll out increments effective October

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

IT services firm HCLTech on Monday posted flat net profit at Rs 4,235 crore for the second quarter ended September 2025. This was in line with street's expectations of about Rs 4,230 crore. Its revenue from operations in Q2 stood at Rs 31,942 crore, a 10.7% growth compared to Rs 28,862 crore reported in the year-ago period. For the first time, the company reported that its advanced AI quarterly revenue crossed $100 million, and it has a healthy spread across services and software.

HCLTech has retained its FY26 revenue growth guidance between 3% and 5% year-on-year (YoY) in constant currency. Its services revenue growth is expected to be between 4% and 5% YoY in constant currency (CC) and its EBIT margin to be between 17 and 18%. The IT services firm's EBIT was at Rs 5,550 crore (17.4% of revenue), up 3.5% YoY, and its Q2 FY26 EBIT margin includes 55 bps impact of restructuring cost.

The company is in the midst of restructuring its operations, and it's a combination of both people and non-people put together. Explaining its restructuring programme, Ram Sundararajan, chief people officer, HCLTech, said, "The people part is the location skill mismatch as well as some of the businesses that we have acquired. We had to look at it from an efficiency measures point of view, and those are the actions that we have taken during the course of the quarter."

C Vijayakumar, CEO & Managing Director, HCLTech, said, "A standout quarter on every front — marked by strong execution, growing demand for our AI-powered solutions, and Advanced AI revenue exceeding $100 million this quarter. For the first time, our new bookings surpassed $2.5 billion, without reliance on any mega-deal."

C Vijayakumar, CEO & MD, HCLTech

He added that the company has been growing strongly in BFSI, technology and telecommunications and media verticals. During the post-earnings press conference, the CEO said, "While the broader manufacturing segment is doing fine, there is continued impact due to the autosector slowdown."

On the recent H-1B visa fee revision and its potential impact, the CEO said that over the years, they have made a conscious effort to reduce their reliance on visas by strategically strengthening their local hiring.

Talking about data centres, the CEO said there is a huge opportunity in implementation and operational services for some of the data centres, which is now called the AI factory. "We are already working with the top 10 tech companies in the world as a part of their build and operate strategy," he added.

The company has added 3,489 people to its employee base in the quarter. Sundararajan said that they have added 5,196 freshers during the quarter, and that they will roll out increments effective October. "This time we have also decided to move the quarterly variable pay and convert that into fixed pay and merge it with fixed salary for all our employees," he said during the post-earnings press conference.

Commenting on the company's earnings, Shubham Rathore, Principal Analyst at Gartner, said the company's record $2.57 billion in new deal bookings signals strong demand for its digital and AI-driven solutions, and its ability to win large, multi-year contracts.

"Margin improvement and reduced attrition to 12.6% points to disciplined operational management and effective employee retention. Management remains optimistic, with guidance indicating sustained growth and stable profitability, fueled by investments in advanced tech and strategic partnerships," he added.

The board has declared an interim dividend of Rs 12 per share.

EPFO members can now withdraw up to 100%

NEW DELHI, PTI

The board of retirement fund body EPFO on Monday approved liberalised part withdrawals for its more than seven crore subscribers, allowing up to 100% EPF withdrawal.

The Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision-making body of EPFO, headed by Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, took several path-breaking decisions during its meeting, a Labour Ministry statement said on Monday.

To enhance the Ease of Living of EPF members, the CBT decided to simplify the partial withdrawal provisions of the EPF Scheme by merging 13 complex provisions into a single, streamlined rule categorised into three types, namely, Essential Needs (illness, education, marriage), Housing Needs and Special Circumstances.

Now, members will be able to withdraw up to 100% of the eligible balance in the Provident Fund, including employee and employer share.

Withdrawal limits have been liberalised—education withdrawals allowed up to 10 times and marriage up to 5 times (from the existing limit of a total of 3 partial withdrawals for marriage & education in all).

The requirement for minimum service has been uniformly reduced to only 12 months for all partial withdrawals.

Earlier, under 'Special Circumstances,' the member was required to clarify the reasons for partial withdrawals viz. natural calamity, lockouts/closure of establishments, continuous unemployment, outbreak of epidemic, etc.

This often led to rejection of claims and consequent grievances.

Now, the member can apply without assigning any reasons under this category.

A provision has been made for earmarking 25% of the contributions in the Members' account as Minimum Balance to be maintained by the member at all times.

This will enable the member to enjoy a high rate of interest offered by EPFO (presently 8.25% pa) along with compounding benefits to accumulate a high-value retirement corpus.

This rationalization enhances ease of access while ensuring members maintain a sufficient retirement corpus.

Scheme provision simplification along with greater flexibility and zero need for any documentation will pave the way for 100% auto settlement of claims for partial withdrawal and ensure ease of living.

Complementing the above, it is also decided to change the period for availing premature final settlement of EPF from the existing 2 months to 12 months and final pension withdrawal from 2 months to 36 months.

The liberalisation of partial withdrawals ensures members can meet immediate financial needs without compromising their retirement savings or pension entitlements.

The EPFO has also rolled the 'Vishwas Scheme' to reduce litigation through rationalised penal damages. The ministry explained that one of the major reasons for litigations has been the imposition of damages for belated remittances of PF dues.

Foxconn to invest Rs 15,000 crore in TN

CHENNAI, DHNS: Taiwanese electronics major Foxconn will invest Rs 15,000 crore in Tamil Nadu, where it already assembles high-end Apple iPhones, to shift its focus from electronics manufacturing services (EMS) to value-added manufacturing and research and development (R&D) integration.

In a statement, the Tamil Nadu government said a delegation led by Foxconn's India representative Robert Wu met Chief Minister M K Stalin on Monday and reaffirmed the company's commitment to the state.

The company's Sunguvarchatiram plant, which assembles both Android phones and high-end devices of Apple Inc in separate buildings, employs over 44,000 people, predominantly women, making the facility the largest outside China.

"During the meeting, Foxconn announced a major investment commitment of Rs 15,000 crore in Tamil Nadu and creation of 14,000 new jobs, with a special focus on engineering graduates and highly skilled youth, signalling Foxconn's shift towards value-added manufacturing, R&D integration, and technology-led operations in Tamil Nadu," the statement added.

The statement also said the first-ever Foxconn Desk in India will be established at Guidance Tamil Nadu, the state government's investment arm to ensure faster coordination, investor facilitation, and mission-mode engagement across projects.

Robert Wu said Tamil Nadu's infrastructure readiness, ease of doing business reforms, and future-focused policy leadership make it a preferred destination for Foxconn's next phase of growth in India, including strategic verticals such as battery technologies and AI-led manufacturing systems, the statement added. Sources said the investment will be towards moving up the value chain, including manufacturing components that go into smartphones.

Besides the Sunguvarchatiram facility, Foxconn's group company, Yuzhan Technology (India) Pvt. Ltd, is building an unit at the ESR Industrial Park in Oragadam to manufacture electronics components.

Singapore court clears restructuring plan for WazirX

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a significant development in WazirX's recovery journey, Zettai Pte Ltd, the Singapore-based parent company of the crypto exchange, announced on Monday that the High Court of Singapore has officially sanctioned the creditor-approved restructuring scheme proposed by the company, with modifications. This comes after 95.7% of voting creditors — representing 94.6% in value — re-voted in favour of the Scheme in August 2025.

This paves the way for the reopening of the platform. A cyberattack on WazirX in July last year resulted in the theft of approximately Rs 2,000 crore worth of funds, and the exchange has not been operational since then.

"The sanction represents a key milestone in WazirX's journey since it marks one of the fastest restructurings in the global crypto industry, despite suffering one of the biggest cyberattacks in the history of this space. We remain fully focused on our mission towards acting in the best interests of our creditors. As soon as the scheme is legally effective based on today's verdict, we will start platform operations within 10 business days," said Nischal Shetty, Founder of WazirX.

Zettai said as the next step, it will file the order with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA). "Within 10 business days of the Scheme becoming effective, the WazirX platform will restart, and token distributions to Scheme Creditors will take place. Zettai will notify all Scheme Creditors regarding the relevant legal filings and timelines," the company said.

To further strengthen the security of funds, the company has partnered with custodian BitGo.

Meanwhile, Bitcoin, the largest cryptocurrency by market value, slipped to $108,000 following the US announcement of 100% tariffs on Chinese goods, before consolidating in the $110,000–$115,000 range. "The drop was largely driven by mass liquidations and profit-booking as global risk sentiment weakened. Despite the volatility, markets have shown resilience, and total crypto market capitalisation has rebounded above $4 trillion, with BTC and ETH gaining 4.8% and 12.4%, respectively, in the past 24 hours. With early signs of easing trade tensions and potential US–China dialogue, market sentiment has improved. Bitcoin now faces resistance around $118,000–$120,000," CoinSwitch Markets Desk said.

Crypto exchange CoinSwitch said it observed strong investor activity amid the dip. "Investors are clearly buying the dip, viewing corrections as long-term opportunities rather than moments of panic," it said.

Govt unveils Rs 6.4L cr hydro plan

NEW DELHI, REUTERS: The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has drawn up a Rs 6.4 lakh crore ($77 billion) transmission plan to move more than 76 gigawatts of hydroelectric capacity from the Brahmaputra basin by 2047 to meet rising electricity demand, the power planning body said on Monday.

In a report released on Monday, the CEA said the plan covers 208 large hydro projects across 12 sub-basins in the northeastern states, with 64.9 GW of potential capacity and an additional 11.1 GW from pumped-storage plants. The Brahmaputra River, which rises in Tibet, China, and flows through India and Bangladesh, holds significant hydro potential in its Indian stretch, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh on the China border.

The basin's transboundary nature and proximity to China make water management and infrastructure planning a strategic concern, amid India's fears that a Chinese dam on the Yarlung Zangbo, the river's upper course before it enters India, could cut dry-season flows on the Indian side by up to 85%.

The Brahmaputra basin spans parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and West Bengal, and holds more than 80% of India's untapped hydro potential.

HGS opens new intelligent experience hub in Manila

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-headquartered Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS) on Monday opened a new intelligent experience hub in Manila, Philippines.

The company will create more than 1,000 new jobs over the next 24 months in the areas of business services and digital transformation. With this new hub, HGS now operates two facilities in Manila and four across the Philippines. The new centre has an initial capacity of 1,500 seats and can accommodate up to 3,000 employees in two shifts.

HGS said the new facility will strengthen its capability to deliver technology-enabled solutions for clients while providing a modern workplace for employees. Located in Manila's prime business district, the new hub consolidates HGS' teams from across the city in a single, purpose-built environment, the company said in a BSE filing.

"The Philippines has been an integral part of HGS' growth story for over two decades, and this new intelligent experience hub marks yet another important milestone in our commitment to this region," said Giridhar GV, CEO – APAC and Global CHRO, HGS.

TN'S SIPCOT inaugurates creches in 16 industrial parks

CHENNAI, DHNS: In a move aimed at helping working women and easing stress over taking care of their children, the Tamil Nadu government-owned State Industries Promotion Corporation (SIPCOT) on Monday launched creches at 16 industrial parks across the state. While the space for the creches will be provided by SIPCOT, the facilities will be run by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) Ladies Organisation (FLO).

The creches at the SIPCOT industrial parks in Hosur, Oragadam, Thervoykandigai, Vallam Vadagal, Siruseri, Gummidipoondi, Cuddalore, Bargur, Perundurai, Thoothukudi, Nilakottai, Ranipet, Pudukkottai, Manamadurai, and Pillaipakkam were inaugurated by Chief Minister M K Stalin virtually from the State Secretariat.

To begin with, the creches will serve over 675 children and more facilities will be established if the demand arises. The facility will benefit nearly 3.23 lakh employees, creating a significant impact on workforce participation, family welfare, and gender-inclusive economic growth, FICCI FLO, Chennai's immediate past chairperson Divya Abhishek said.

The creche will cater to children between 6 months and five years of age and will be beneficial to staff across all components, including labourers.

GoodScore raises $13 mn in Series A funding round

BENGALURU, DHNS: GoodScore, a Bengaluru-based AI-powered fintech platform, has raised $13 million in Series A funding, led by Peak XV Partners, with participation from existing investors Stellaris Venture Partners and Saison Capital. GoodScore plans to use the funds raised to deepen its AI-led advisory offerings, expand its tech, product and operations teams, and further enhance its credit marketplace, connecting borrowers and lenders across India, the company said in a statement. Founded in 2023 by Sanchit Bansal, GoodScore enables users to manage their credit health through personalised, AI-driven insights and expert guidance.

OpenAI announces Broadcom partnership to build AI chips

SAN FRANCISCO, AFP: OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, announced on Monday that it is teaming up with chip giant Broadcom to design and build its own specialized computer processors for artificial intelligence.

The partnership was the latest in a series of recent announcements by OpenAI as it seeks to strengthen its position as the preeminent company of the generative AI revolution that began with the release of ChatGPT in November 2022.

In the past few weeks, under the leadership of CEO Sam Altman, OpenAI has signed huge investments in data centers and AI chips with US companies Nvidia and AMD, as well as with South Korea's Samsung and SK Hynix. The partnerships come even as there are no real signs that the AI business is close to breaking even, despite its strong growth.

The deals to build out AI's immense infrastructure needs also threaten further stress on electricity providers, with AI data centers demanding significant power and resources to deliver the computing necessary for the expected usage of the technology.

The financial terms of the deal were not part of the announcements and remain unclear for many of the recent deals, drawing some skepticism from observers who worry the AI frenzy may have created a financial bubble, posing a risk to investors.

Dr Ranjan Pai buys property for Rs 165 crore on Lavelle Road

BENGALURU, DHNS: In one of the biggest property deals in the city, Dr Ranjan Pai, Chairman of Manipal Hospitals and Managing Partner at Esencia Partners, has just purchased a property for a whopping Rs 165.6 crore.

Located on Lavelle Road, one of the city's most prestigious residential and commercial streets, the property spans 25,824 sq.ft. The seller, Mira Angeline Cummins, an Australian national, finalised the deal on September 12, 2025, as per registration documents accessed by Zapkey.com.

What makes this deal even more interesting is its transaction value which translates to nearly Rs 64,150 per sq.ft., setting a new benchmark for land prices in central Bengaluru. This deal underscores how scarce large, independent land parcels have become in this part of the city.

Zapkey Co-founder Sandeep Reddy said: "This Lavelle Road transaction is one of the most significant real estate deals in Bengaluru this year."

India trade team to visit US this week as talks progress

BLOOMBERG: A trade delegation will visit the US this week as the two nations work toward clinching a deal by the fall deadline, an official told reporters in New Delhi on Monday.

India is also seeking to buy more natural gas from the US as part of the trade talks, the official said, asking not to be identified as the discussions are private. Discussions between the two countries are progressing well, the person added, without providing further details.

The negotiations resumed last month as both sides sought to ease tensions following President Donald Trump's decision to slap India with the highest tariffs in Asia, penalising the country for its trade barriers and Russian oil purchases.

A US trade team visited New Delhi for a day of talks in September, followed by a trip to Washington by an Indian delegation led by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

During those talks, India offered concessions to the US, including easing some restrictions on the import of genetically modified corn, and offering to buy more American defense and energy goods, Bloomberg News reported earlier.

The US and India had previously committed to a bilateral agreement to be completed by the fall of this year, but negotiations collapsed after both sides hardened their positions and Washington began putting pressure on New Delhi over its ties with Russia. Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to 50% in August, accusing New Delhi of helping Vladimir Putin finance his war in Ukraine.

Are commerce graduates prepared for industry roles?

NIKHIL BARSHIKAR

Every year, India produces lakhs of commerce graduates. Data from AISHE shows that commerce makes up about 13.3% of undergraduate enrolments. That translates to millions of commerce students across the country each year. On paper, that should create a massive talent pool for banking, finance, consulting, and corporate roles.

In reality, the gap between degrees and job-readiness remains wide. A government report claims employability among graduates rose from 33.95% in 2013 to 55% in 2024. But anyone who has been on a recruitment panel knows the truth: too many candidates walk in with degrees yet lack the skills to perform. Unless that changes, we'll continue to see a generation of educated but underemployed youth whose qualifications don't match what the industry actually needs.

According to the Economic Survey, only 8.25% of Indian graduates work in roles that genuinely match their qualifications. That's not just low, it's structural underemployment. Millions are technically "employed," but in jobs that don't use the skills they studied.

The weakest link

Modern finance and corporate roles expect more than theoretical accounting. Even entry-level positions now demand comfort with:

- Intermediate Excel (pivot tables, macros)
- ERP and accounting software (SAP, Oracle, Tally)
- Data visualisation tools (Power BI, Tableau)

Yet, most commerce programs continue to reward memorisation over application. Recruiters see this first-hand. In BFSI, 72% of employers say they now prefer candidates with demonstrable technical expertise over pure academic credentials. That preference shows up in pay scales too:

- Financial analysts skilled in Excel, SQL, and valuation earn 6–10 LPA.
- Risk managers who know Python/R and Basel frameworks command 12–25 LPA.
- Investment bankers with M&A modelling experience can touch 20–50 LPA.
- Degrees may open doors, but applied skills decide who gets hired and how much they earn.

The government's skilling initiatives have been ambitious. The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) has trained 1.6 crore youth since 2015. But the placement data tells a different story:

- 24.3 lakh tracked placements, with a success rate of less than 15%.
- PMKVY 2.0 placement rate: around 19.5%
- PMKVY 3.0: as low as 5.8% in some sectors
- Overall placement across short-term training candidates: 42.8%

The takeaway is clear: training alone doesn't create employability unless it's tightly aligned with what industries need.

A Mumbai-based investment firm recently shared that 7 out of 10 commerce graduates they interview can't build a simple discounted cash flow (DCF) model in Excel, despite having studied financial management for three years. Recruiters across India echo this frustration: "We don't mind teaching our internal processes, but the basics should be there."

The irony is that the finance and fintech sectors are booming. The BFSI sector employs around 9 million people, contributes nearly 6% to GDP, and fintech alone is expected to generate 3 lakh new jobs in 2025. Employers today seek talent in fraud detection, credit risk analysis, compliance, analytics, and digital product management, yet most graduates are still being trained for textbook audits and static balance sheets.

This isn't a shortage of jobs. It's a shortage of job-ready talent.

How to fix it?

- **Curriculum overhaul:** Universities must move from theory-heavy syllabi to skill-oriented learning. Applied finance, Excel, ERP tools, and data visualisation should be part of the core curriculum, not electives.
- **Mandatory internships:** Every commerce student should complete at least a three-month structured internship with defined deliverables and evaluation criteria.
- **Integrated certifications:** Partnering with global certifications such as CFA, ACCA, CPA, CMA, and FRM — along with hands-on experience using Power BI and SQL can significantly raise employability.
- **Soft skills and communication labs:** Courses in communication, problem-solving, and adaptability should use live case studies and presentations, not rote exercises.

The bottom line: India doesn't lack talent. It lacks alignment. When 70% of a commerce degree focuses on theory and only 30% on application, underemployment is inevitable.

To fix this, we need a system that teaches students to think, not just memorise. That equips them to analyse, not just account. Those values applied learning over textbook knowledge.

Unless we shift towards building applied, digital, and analytical competencies, we'll keep producing graduates who are available but not employable.

And that's not just an education gap, it's an economic one.

(The author is the founder of a firm providing job-assistance learning)

Perks of neuroinclusivity in workplaces

Neurodivergent workplaces prioritise flexibility, sensory comfort, and clear communication, write Reji Varghese and Trinjhna Khattar

The Owl Cafe in Goa employs neurodivergent individuals, providing them with skills, income, and a valuable platform to showcase their strengths.

Maitreyee Manglurkar is the Centre Head of The Owl House, a non-profit organisation that provides skilling and vocational support for neurodivergent individuals and also runs the café. She explains that employers frequently lack a clear understanding of the distinct characteristics and advantages that neurodivergence can bring.

Neurodivergent describes people whose brain differences affect how they think and behave. Individuals with conditions such as ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, dyslexia, and dyspraxia have unique strengths and challenges. Potential strengths include enhanced memory, the ability to easily picture three-dimensional (3D) objects, the ability to perform complex mental calculations, and strong pattern recognition.

Workplaces today are seeing a growing number of employees who identify as neurodivergent. These individuals bring unique thinking approaches, communication styles, attention mechanisms, and problem-solving abilities.

While there's a growing corporate focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I), it has not adequately incorporated knowledge about neurodiversity. This gap can prevent employees from fully participating at work and achieving performance goals.

Corporate initiatives

Research shows that neurodivergent individuals make up 15–20% of the global population. Millions of neurodivergent professionals are working in the Indian workforce without adequate workplace accommodations.

In contrast, corporations such as Microsoft, SAP, IBM, and Thomson Reuters run targeted hiring and inclusion programmes for candidates with autism, dyslexia, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), who work successfully as software developers, UX designers, and data analysts.

Neurodivergent employees often have distinctive ways of communicating, which may be evident in direct speech, specific word choices, minimal eye contact, or unique body language. The work environment also affects their sensory perception, as they react strongly to noise, light, and open-plan office layouts.

These employees exhibit distinct work patterns, including intense concentration, difficulty switching between tasks, and strict adherence to schedules. They bring exceptional problem-solving abilities, including the capacity to detect patterns, generate innovative solutions, and maintain intense focus on details.

VN (name changed), aged 31, who has ADHD and works as a designer for a British multinational in Mumbai, says, "Employees with ADHD can deliver bursts of extraordinary productivity, often 200%, when given the freedom to manage energy and time. In fast-changing environments, ADHD is an asset: adaptability, quick thinking, and cross-domain problem-solving become natural strengths. What looks like restlessness is often resilience. Employees with ADHD often find creative ways to adapt when rigid rules drive others away."

Currently, a lack of awareness leads to poor well-being, anxiety, and high rates of job turnover for neurodivergent employees. For example, an HR manager in Mumbai rejected a candidate with autism due to a lack of eye contact, only to later discover the candidate had outstanding data pattern recognition skills. This shows that managers who fail to understand different communication styles will overlook important employee capabilities.

Creating neuroinclusive workplaces

Implementing simple workplace accommodations leads to significant improvements in comfort and work performance among neurodivergent employees.

- **Rethink hiring and feedback systems:** The recruitment process should eliminate unnecessary aspects such as casual conversations and group assessments.
- **Create sensory-friendly spaces:** The workplace should provide designated quiet areas, noise-reduction systems, and remote work options to support employees with diverse sensory needs. Accommodations such as soft, smooth upholstery, sound-masking headphones, and fidget-friendly furniture (e.g., rocking stools and rocking chairs) can help employees to ground themselves. Giving icons or pictorial instructions can also be very helpful to new employees in navigating and reducing visual clutter.
- **Build awareness and train managers:** Managers need training to identify neurodivergent communication patterns and view these differences as natural variations rather than problems to be corrected. Giving adequate transition time to settle into the work rhythm on a given day before initiating meetings for task discussions can help neurodivergent employees better settle into tasks.
- **Tap into inclusive employment providers:** Specialists worldwide train and support neurodivergent candidates, helping them leverage their strong pattern-recognition skills to excel in software testing, quality control, and other areas.
- **Develop evidence-based solutions:** Research shows that structured work environments, combined with assistive technology tools and inclusive meeting practices, lead to successful career development for autistic professionals at every stage.
- **Enable line managers and colleagues:** Everyone in the chain of command must be sensitised and trained to be open and supportive so that neurodivergent candidates can reach their full potential.
- **Leverage external support:** Because every neurodivergent candidate has unique strengths and challenges, the insights of family or support networks can be valuable (with the employee's consent). This information can guide task assignments and workplace adjustments, helping employees adapt and stay longer.

Advantages to businesses

Neurodiversity is a valuable form of human diversity that delivers measurable business advantages. Research has shown that neurodivergent team members achieve 30% higher productivity than non-neurodivergent teams because they excel at focused work, detailed tasks, and problem-solving.

"Neurodiverse employees show exceptional resilience and adaptability when properly supported, a quality that fast-paced organisations require," Maitreyee says. "Companies that hire neurodiverse employees gain dedicated staff members who bring fresh perspectives, leading to innovative solutions. Organisations that welcome neurodiverse employees experience better staff retention because inclusive environments build trust and foster a sense of belonging and work commitment."

The Indian neuroinclusion movement faces various cultural and structural challenges that slow its development. Indian businesses must create workplaces that accept neurodivergent candidates through means that go beyond minimum regulatory standards. Organisations that create neuroinclusive work environments will gain strategic advantages by improving innovation and productivity, reducing employee burnout, and minimising employee turnover.

(Reji Varghese is a Chennai-based entrepreneur; Trinjhna Khattar is a program director at the Institute for Exceptional Children, Mumbai)

BULLETIN BOARD

Email marketing internship

Demandlane is hiring email marketing interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of CSS, debugging, digital marketing, e-mail marketing, HTML, marketing campaigns, and English proficiency (both spoken and written) can apply by October 24. The stipend is Rs 7,000 - 14,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/iePuZ.

Telecalling internship

Firststore.io is hiring a telecalling intern who can work from home. Students proficient in written English, spoken Hindi, and MS-Excel can apply by November 6. The stipend is Rs 1,000-10,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/pfXNI.

Educational consultant internship

Tisteps Private Limited is hiring educational consultant interns in multiple locations, including Bengaluru (Hybrid). Students with advanced Excel skills, consulting experience, data analysis and digital design experience, and effective communication skills can apply by November 5. The stipend is Rs 20,000 – 35,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/9ed04a.

Account management internship

Gosprint Logistics Private Limited is hiring key account management interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of MS Excel, effective client relationship, communication and interpersonal skills can apply by October 23. The stipend is Rs 20,000 - 25,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/2ITO5.

Time management: Tips for youngsters

VIJAY PRAKASH SRIVASTAVA

We may differ in our personality traits, financial status, and other aspects, but when it comes to time, we are all equal. Each of us gets only 24 hours in a day. Still, most of us complain that we don't have time.

Money, our physical energy and knowledge are all our resources. Time should also be considered a resource, but it has a unique quality. This uniqueness should be obvious to us, but is often ignored. If I have a thousand rupees, and I don't spend it now, it remains with me. This isn't the case with time. I don't have to make any particular effort to spend time. Even if I don't do anything, time will pass. Time cannot be stored. The most I can do is to set an alarm to remind me of the time. Such an alarm keeps us on schedule to catch the early morning train or flight and keep other appointments.

We're witnessing a tech revolution that has made our life easier and continues to save us time. With mobile and app-based fund transfer, we don't have to make frequent visits to banks and ATMs. Those working from home save the time used in commuting. Still, many of us continue to lament the lack of time.

For young people, it's essential to understand that those whom we consider successful and/or achievers have earned their position through effective use of their time. We may have every talent and tool, but if we don't use our time effectively in utilising and deploying these, we'll be at a disadvantage.

The routine we follow becomes a habit for us. We accept it, but hardly make sincere efforts to improve the situation. Hours, days, and weeks fly by without any progress in terms of new learnings, accomplishing significant tasks, or moving closer to the goals. The situation leads to frustration and a decline in self-esteem.

Are you satisfied with how you use your time?

This is the first question to ask yourself. Review the schedule of your activities from the past month. How much of your time was spent on unproductive or meaningless activities that didn't create value for you, and refraining from which shouldn't have meant any loss? What did watching one reel after another on social media get you? Or what value did you get from the endless group chats you participate in regularly?

If the answer does not make you happy, it's time to change your routine. Here are some tips:

- **Valuing priorities:** Procrastination harms us in many ways and creates undesirable situations. Understanding priorities isn't difficult, but valuing them is. Otherwise, why are projects and assignments taken up the night before the submission date? If the output lacks quality and is found to be shoddy, we know at least one reason. One must attend to priorities without making excuses.
- **Claiming your mornings:** The adage 'Early to bed and early to rise, keeps a (wo)man healthy, wealthy and wise' is for a reason. For some, there may be compulsions (such as working with clients in a different time zone), but wherever possible, try to accomplish as much as possible in the first half of the day when the mind is fresh and energy levels are high.

This doesn't necessarily mean that we have to feel tired physically and mentally in the latter part of the day. The simple idea is that completing important tasks early may result in higher productivity and a sense of satisfaction.

- **Creating extra time:** The idea of creating extra time seems impractical, literally. But think about a person who sleeps enough. By going to bed 15 minutes later and waking up 15 minutes early, this person creates half an hour extra time, which can be put to effective use. Those who feel they don't have time for a morning walk or exercise may want to consider this approach. Effective time management involves investing in both physical fitness and self-development. It's essential to stay up-to-date with the developments taking place in one's area of work. This is a test of your time management skills.
- **Time for hobbies:** Many young people who were once engaged in active hobbies, such as sports, playing music, and dancing, sadly leave these behind, citing a lack of time. Consider reviving your old hobby or discovering a new one. Some of our time, however little, is meant to be spent on an active hobby for relaxation, finding pleasure, and enriching our life.
- **No time for distractions:** We should be fully engaged in what we do. An hour's job may take much more when we get frequently distracted. Except for those tasks that require too much time, all others should preferably be completed in one stretch. When we break and start after a few days, we've to go back to pick up the thread from where we left off, which wastes precious time.

By adopting simple tricks of managing our time, we can do much more in our life. Effective, productive use of time gives us a sense of fulfilment and is a booster to our mental well-being. Some reflection, honesty and strategy are all we need to achieve this.

Breaking the silence on campus safety

ANITHA RAMACHANDER

Schools and colleges are meant to be places of learning, growth, and empowerment. Yet, incidents of sexual harassment and assault involving young women continue to occur—in classrooms, laboratories, hostels, and even online. Some cases also occur off campus, where staff members exploit students' trust. Wherever they occur, these acts are deeply troubling and unacceptable.

Across India, recent incidents have underscored this persistent problem. In Bengaluru, a department head was accused of behaving inappropriately with a student at his residence. Near Delhi, a self-styled godman leading an educational organisation allegedly sent inappropriate messages to students. In Kolkata, the rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College in August 2024 sparked nationwide outrage. Tamil Nadu has also reported several cases of teachers engaging in misconduct with students.

Teachers are often regarded as mentors and parental figures — people entrusted to guide and protect. Yet, stories of abuse within educational settings are disturbingly common. Many victims remain silent. A 2024 survey found that nearly 10% of students had experienced sexual assault within their institutions, but only 16% of them filed formal complaints. Many institutions underreport such cases to protect their reputation, thereby widening the gap between the actual number of incidents and official data. This silence allows offenders to continue unchecked.

How young women can stay aware

- **Recognising boundaries**: Understand what is acceptable in verbal, non-verbal, physical, and digital interactions. Early awareness helps identify when a line has been crossed.
- **Documenting evidence:** Keep records, screenshots, dates, times, and witness names where possible. These details can support reporting and investigation.
- **Seeking peer support:** Avoid isolated or private meetings with staff or others. If requested, bring a peer along and inform friends or family.
- **Learning self-defence and assertiveness:** Basic self-defence skills and confidence in saying "no" can be valuable both now and later in life.
- **Practising online safety:** Avoid sharing personal details, photos, or contact information online. Block or report anyone who behaves inappropriately.

If you experience harassment, remember: you are not responsible for someone else's actions. Speak up to your family, friends, or counsellor. Report incidents to your institution's Internal Complaints Committee (ICC). If the matter is serious, file a police complaint. Seek counselling and medical support—helplines and NGOs in every state can assist you. Reporting not only protects you but also helps prevent others from facing the same harm. Every student deserves to learn in a safe, respectful, and supportive environment.

A note to institutions

The University Grants Commission (UGC) mandates all higher education institutions to establish an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The ICC must handle complaints, conduct gender-sensitivity training, maintain confidentiality, and file annual compliance reports.

Institutions must inform students about anti-harassment policies during orientation, display helpline numbers and ICC contact details, and provide safe infrastructure—including well-lit corridors, secure hostels, trained counsellors, and functioning grievance mechanisms. Yet, many institutions fail to meet these requirements or conceal complaints to avoid scrutiny. Transparency and swift response are crucial to rebuilding trust.

Creating a secure campus is not optional—it is fundamental to the idea of education itself. Empowering women begins with ensuring that they feel safe, heard, and respected. Only then can true learning and equality thrive.

(The author is an academic)

Noman spins Pak ahead despite de Zorzi's resistance

LAHORE, AFP: Spinner Noman Ali grabbed four wickets to restrict South Africa to 216 for six at the close of play on day two of the first Test in Lahore on Monday, despite a fighting half century from Tony de Zorzi.

Spinners dominated on a turning Gaddafi Stadium pitch as all the day's 11 wickets went to slow bowlers, with South African left-armer Senuran Muthusamy taking a career-best 6-117 to dismiss Pakistan for 378.

Zorzi was holding the fort at the close with 81 not out and Muthusamy on six as South Africa trail by 162 runs in the first innings.

Zorzi batted with guts, knocking nine boundaries and a six, combating Noman who claimed 4/85.

South Africa started off well with 45/0 on the board when Noman removed touring skipper Aiden Markram for 20 and Wiaan Mulder for 17 -- both caught behind by wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan.

Ryan Rickelton (71) and Zorzi added 94 for the third wicket.

Brief scores: Pakistan (O/n: 315/5) 378 all out in 110.4 overs (Imam-ul-Haq 93, Shan Masood 76, Mohammad Rizwan 75, Salman Agha 93; Prenelan Subrayen 2-78, Senuran Muthusamy 6-117) vs South Africa: 216/6 in 67 overs (Ryan Rickelton 71, Tony de Zorzi 81 n.o.; Noman Ali 4-85).

IN BRIEF

DYES 'A' beat DYES 'B'

▸ Goals from Desh Poovaiah, Aryan Aiyappa, Akheel Mutagar and Shivakumarraya V Pujar helped Dept of Youth Empowerment Sports 'A' ease past DYES 'B' 4-2 in the Hockey Karnataka league championship at the FMKMC Hockey Arena in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

Results: DYES A: 4 (Desh Poovaiah AA 21st, Aryan Aiyappa MT 42nd, Akheel Mutagar 55th, Shivakumarraya V Pujar 57th) bt DYES B: 2 (Vachan HA 12th, Pranam Gowda YM 54th); SAI STC: 3 (Sakshath MP 20th, Pavan DR 36th, Pavan KJ 51st) bt SWR, Hubli: 2 (Pavan Madivalar 5th, Kumar N 34th).

Vaibahv is Bihar Ranji team's VC

▸ Bihar have appointed 14-year-old batting prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi as their vice-captain for the first two matches of the upcoming Ranji Trophy season starting on Wednesday, with Sakibul Gani being the captain, reports PTI from Patna.

Joshna wins Japan Open

▸ India's Joshna Chinappa clinched her 11th PSA Tour title, beating Egypt's Haya Ali in the Japan Open final in Yokohama on Monday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The former women's world No. 10 defeated the third seeded Egyptian 11-5, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8 in the final of the USD 15,000 Challenger event.

KSBA's billiards, snooker meet

▸ The State-ranking Billiards and Snooker tournament for Senior, Junior and Sub-junior across categories (men, women, boys and girls) will be held at the Karnataka State Billiards Association from November 3, reports DHNS.

Those interested can send their entries on or before October 24. For details contact call at: 080-4322322.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

2nd Test: India vs West Indies (day 5, 9:30 am). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

Women's World Cup: Sri Lanka vs New Zealand (3 pm). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

1st Test: Pakistan vs South Africa (day 3, 10:30 am). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

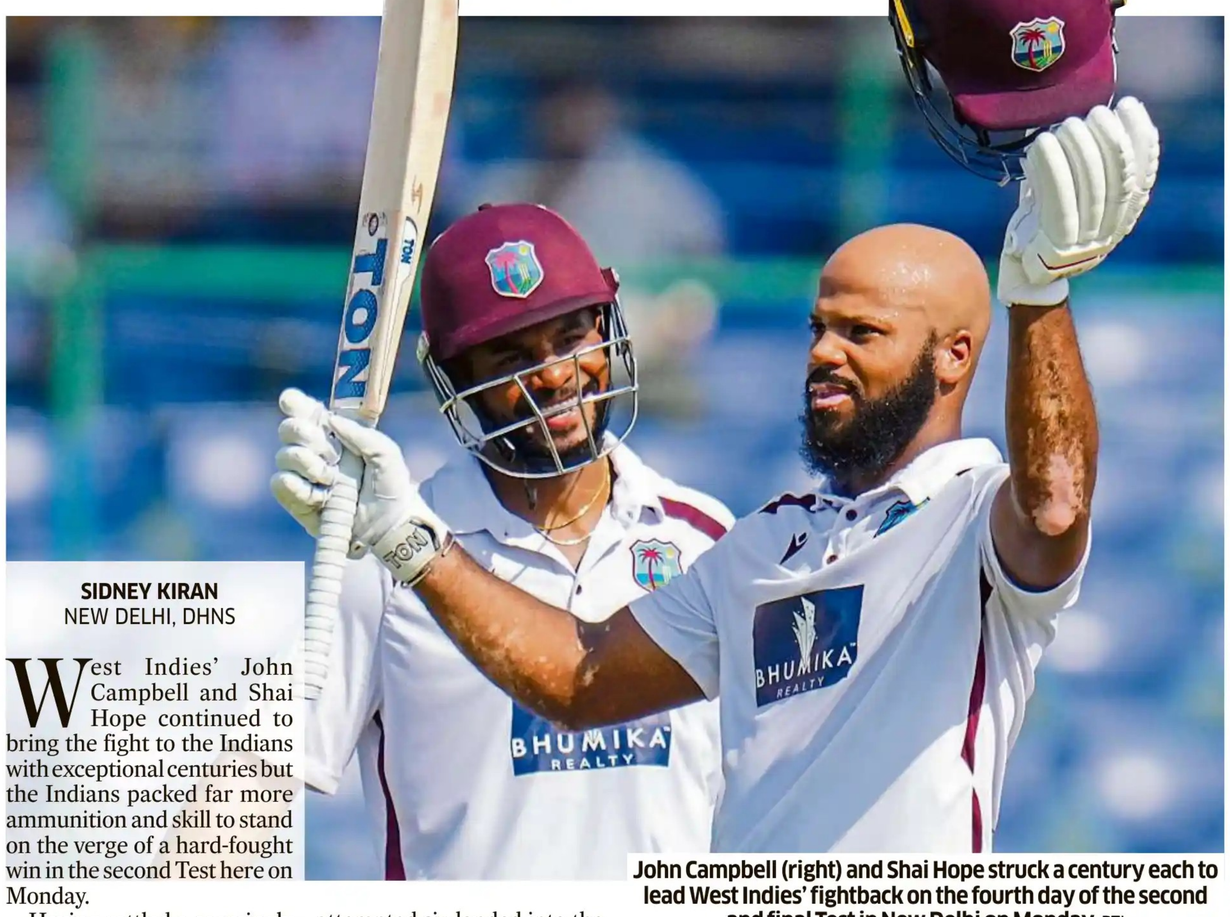
FOOTBALL

AFC Asian Cup Qualifier: India vs Singapore (7:30 pm). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET SECOND TEST

Hosts need 58 for sweep after Campbell, Hope slam tons

WI fight back, but India STAY ON TOP



SIDNEY KIRAN
NEW DELHI, DHNS

West Indies' John Campbell and Shai Hope continued to bring the fight to the Indians with exceptional centuries but the Indians packed far more ammunition and skill to stand on the verge of a hard-fought win in the second Test here on Monday.

Having rattled a seemingly overconfident India with pugnacious fifties on the third day, the duo carried on from where they left off at a slow Arun Jaitley Stadium with Campbell smashing a 199-ball 115 and Hope hitting a 214-ball 103. However, as soon as Campbell departed the third ball after the first drinks break following a rash reverse sweep that brought an end to the 177-run third-wicket stand, the floodgates opened.

India went in for the kill, but their quest met with feisty resistance by the last wicket pairing of Justin Greaves (50 n.o.) and Jayden Seales (32). After the tea break, the hosts ended the doughty 79-run stand after tea that brought the West Indies' admirable fightback to a conclusion at 390. That left the Indians with a 121-run target for a 2-0 sweep.

With 18 overs left to complete the job on the penultimate day itself, the question was whether India would go for it in T20 style or do it patiently without any bravado, considering a win was more important, especially with precious World Test Championship points up for grabs.

False start

Initially, it seemed like India were determined to pack the bags on Monday itself when Yashasvi Jaiswal came out all guns blazing, but when the opener departed for 8 after an attempted six landed into the hands of Anderson Phillip at long-on, KL Rahul and Sai Sudharsan opted for a safety-first approach as India took stumps at 63/1.

Although the day didn't end as per plans, the Indians were full of purpose at the start. Skipper Shubman Gill began with veteran spinner Ravindra Jadeja and pace ace Jasprit Bumrah, and both were right on the money. Jadeja kept things tight with his typical metronomic bowling, while Bumrah, getting the old ball to reverse swing, created chances almost every over he bowled despite the pitch remaining flat and offering hardly any help. It was just genius bowling from one of the premier fast bowlers in the world.

Like Sunday though, luck remained elusive for the Indians, and Campbell and Hope rode on the good fortune. They didn't let the half-chances or DRS reviews affect them, nicely taking the singles on offer because of the spread-out field and release of pressure with odd big shots. Together, Campbell and Hope negated the opening hour without any damage.

Frustration had begun to creep in when former captain and senior player Rahul took over from Gill to give the team a pep talk during the first drinks break. The motivational speech bore instant results as Jadeja dismissed Campbell with the third ball after the interval. It was the adrenaline shot the desperate Indians needed. Hope, though, continued to fight on along with skipper Roston Chase, West Indies taking lunch at 252/3.

Imminent defeat

The break, again and a ball change did wonders for India as Mohammed Siraj castled Hope's stumps with his wobbled-seam delivery. From 271/4, West Indies slipped to 311/9 and an early finish looked imminent. Greaves and Seales, however, kept the flickering flame from getting extinguished with a gritty partnership. Like Campbell and Hope, they mixed caution with aggression to keep delaying the inevitable. Fatigue also started to show up on the Indian bowlers who had been out on the field since the second afternoon. Greaves and Seales sensed that and batted responsibly.

India needed a moment of magic to snap the stand and Bumrah provided that with his third wicket of the innings. Time for the batters to finish it on Tuesday.

John Campbell (right) and Shai Hope struck a century each to lead West Indies' fightback on the fourth day of the second and final Test in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

SCOREBOARD

INDIA (I Innings): 518/5 decl
WEST INDIES (I Innings): 248
WEST INDIES (II Innings, f/o, O/n: 173/2):
Campbell lbw Jadeja 115 (199b, 12x4, 3x6)
Chanderpaul 10 (30b, 1x4)
Athanaze b Sundar 7 (17b)
Hope b Siraj 103 (214b, 12x4, 2x6)
Chase c sub b Kuldeep 40 (72b, 4x4, 1x6)
Imlach lbw Kuldeep 12 (13b, 1x4)
Greaves (batting) 50 (85b, 3x4)
Pierre c Nitish b Kuldeep 0 (2b)
Warrican b Bumrah 3 (6b)
Phillip c Jurel b Bumrah 2 (10b)
Seales c Sundar b Bumrah 32 (67b, 1x4, 1x6)
Extras (B-7, LB-7, NB-2) 16
TOTAL (all out, 118.3 overs) 390
Fall of wickets: 1-17 (Chanderpaul), 2-35 (Athanaze), 3-212 (Campbell), 4-271 (Hope), 5-293 (Imlach), 6-298 (Chase), 7-298 (Pierre), 8-307 (Warrican), 9-311 (Phillip).
Bowling: Siraj 15-3-43-2, Jadeja 33-10-102-1 (nb-2), Sundar 23-3-80-1, Kuldeep 29-4-104-3, Bumrah 17.5-5-44-3, Jaiswal 1-0-3-0.
INDIA (II Innings):
Jaiswal c Phillip b Warrican 8 (7b, 2x4)
Rahul (batting) 25 (54b, 2x4)
Sudharsan (batting) 30 (47b, 5x4)
TOTAL (for 2 wkts, 18 overs) 63
Fall of wickets: 1-9 (Jaiswal).
Bowling: Seales 3-0-14-0, Warrican 7-1-15-1, Pierre 6-0-24-0, Chase 2-0-10-0.

Patience, perseverance key on slow surfaces: Sundar

SIDNEY KIRAN
NEW DELHI, DHNS

By design or default, the Indians got pretty much what they wanted: a slow-burning pitch for the second Test against the West Indies at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. But sadly, the Kotla track didn't disintegrate as they desired, the surface only getting slower as the match progressed. The odd ball turned sharply, but it bore no demons, making it a hard toil for the bowlers.

The Indians, who made an extremely bold call in asking the West Indies to follow-on despite bowling 81.5 overs in the first innings, struggled to make a similar impact in the second. In the face of a stubborn resistance from John Campbell and Shai Hope, both of whom struck centuries, coupled with a flat pitch and a hot day, the Indians literally were made to sweat in their own bastion. It's not something that occurs frequently.

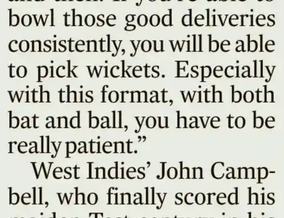
The Indians, though, bowled with plenty of discipline to dismiss the West Indies twice, and spinner Washington Sundar, who managed to bag one wicket in the match, praised his colleagues for the effort. "On this kind of a wicket, you just need to have a lot of patience and try and hit those areas more consistently. That's the only challenge. It's very heartening to have actually taken 20 wickets on a wicket like this," he said at a press conference on Monday evening.

"All of the bowlers bowled really well. Even the fast bowlers bowled their hearts out every single spell. So it's very heartening, honestly. This, I would say, is a typical Delhi wicket where there's not much bounce. And obviously, there wasn't a lot of turn to offer. Different venues play quite differently, and that's the beauty about this format in particular."

Sundar said patience was very important on such a slow track. "Patience and perseverance are key. But it's very important not to really chase the results. Obviously, trying to get them out and trying to get them all out as well. But it's very easy to get into that mindset. But what's more important is to bowl good deliveries every now and then. If you're able to bowl those good deliveries consistently, you will be able to pick wickets. Especially with this format, with both bat and ball, you have to be really patient."

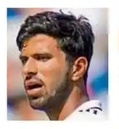
West Indies' John Campbell, who finally scored his maiden Test century in his 25th game, said the second innings fightback from his side, where they scored 390 runs, would give them a much-needed confidence booster after recent multiple batting debacles.

"I think it's a big positive for us. Having not gotten the best first innings, we came out in the second innings and batted over 100 overs. So that's a big plus for us. The coaches always back us. They instil confidence in us."



Kuldeep Yadav added three more wickets to his five from the first innings on the fourth day against West Indies. PTI

WASHINGTON SUNDAR
India all-rounder



"This, I would say, is a typical Delhi wicket where there's not much bounce. And obviously, there wasn't a lot of turn to offer. Different venues play quite differently, and that's the beauty of this format.

Golf icon Rory McIlroy, on Monday landed in India to a warm welcome ahead of the DP World India Championship. X

Cummins may not be fit for first Ashes Test

SYDNEY, AFP: Injured Australia captain Pat Cummins said Monday that he was "probably less likely than likely" to be fit for the first Ashes Test next month, but was still clinging to a shred of hope.

Pace spearhead Cummins has not played since picking up a lower back injury in a Test match against the West Indies in July.

Cummins admitted time was running out to get his body ready for the opening Ashes Test beginning in Perth on November 21.

"I'd say probably less likely than likely, but still got a bit of time," Cummins said, adding that he felt a "bit stiff".

Sai rides Perception to feature win

HYDERABAD RESULTS

Robin Reddy-trained, Perception, ridden by Sai Kumar, won the Sikander E Azam Plate, the feature event of the Hyderabad races on Monday.

1. Nizamabad Plate (Div-III) - 1200M: Mexican Wave (AC Muthiah) Akshay Kumar 1; Feel The Magic (B Nikhil) 2; Photograph (Naresh) 3; Star Cruise (Kuldeep Singh) 4; Not Run: Diligence. Wb: 1/2, 2, 4L. T: 1-14.99. TB: Satheesh. Fav: Mexican Wave.

2. Nawab Mehdi Jung Bahadur Memorial Cup (Div-II) -1100M: Shadow Fax (Krishnamohan Rao) Mukesh Kumar 1; Challenger (Ekram Alam) 2; Sweet Dancer (Ajeeth Kumar) 3; Bold Beauty (Santosh Raj) 4; Wb: Shd, 1-1/2L, Nk. T: 1-07.60. TB: D Netto. Fav: Great Giver.

3 Nizamabad Plate (Div-II) - 1200M: Dontblockmyway (Syed Mohiuddn) Sonu Kumar 1; Hoping Star (Akshay Kumar) 2; Peanut (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Most Beautiful (HM Akshay) 4; Wb: 8-1/2, 4, 3-1/2L. T: 1.13.00. TB: Leo Desilva. Fav: Hoping Star.

4. Nizambad Plate (Div-I) - 1200M: Tootsie Darling (Suresh Chintamaneni) Akshay Kumar 1; Analysis (G Naresh) 2; Aquatone (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Nkalanzinzi (B Nikhil) 4; Wb: 7, 2, 2-3/4L. 1-14.20. TB: Vittal Deshmukh. Fav: Tootsie Darling..

5. Nawab Mehdi Jung Bahadur Memorial Cup (Div-I) - 1100M: Federer (Asif Shaik) Ajeeth Kumar 1; Coming Home (Mukesh Kumar) 2; Leather Back (Rafique Sk) 3; Divine Connection (Nakhat Singh) 4; Wb: 3-1/2, Shd, 2-1/2L. T: 1-08.00. TB: Ananth Vatsalya. Fav: Coming Home.

6. Sikander E Azam Plate - 1600M: Perception (Rakesh Reddy) Sai Kumar 1; Dapper Look (Ekram Alam) 2; Celestial (Ashhad Asbar) 3; Walking Thunder (Akshay Kumarj) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, 2-1/2, 2L. T: 1-39.00. TB: Rakesh Reddy. Fav: Perception.

7. Goodwood Plate - 1600M: Hoping High (CS Kaushik) Gaurav Singh 1; Secret Option (Ashhad Asbar) 2; Muaser (Ajeeth Kumar) 3; City Cruise (Nakhat Singh) 4; Wb: 1/2, Dist, 2-1/2L. T: 1-43.80. TB: Jasbir Singh. Fav: Secret Option.

Bangalore dividends: **I race**: Rs 13w; 10, 13, 17p; Fc: Rs 40; Q: Rs 29; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 164 & 12; Ex: Rs 616 & 159. **II race**: Rs 24w; Rs 10, 28, 22p; Fc: Rs 283; Q: Rs 232; Shp: Rs 84; Thp: Rs 49; Tri: Rs 1,776 & 761; Ex: Rs 6,906 & 8,880. **III race**: Rs 33w; 13, 11, 11p; Fc: Rs 67; Q: Rs 27; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 26; Tri: Rs 152 & 80; Ex: Rs 632 & 359. **IV ace**: Rs 17w; 10, 10, 22p; Fc: Rs 29; Q: Rs 20; Shp: Rs 22; Thp: Rs 48; Tri: Rs 95 & 61: Ex: Rs 599 & 227. **V race**: Rs 66w; 15, 13, 13p; Fc: Rs 174; Q: Rs 64; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 349 & 140; Ex: Rs 2,978 & 1,624. **VI race**: Rs 22w; 13, 23, 13p; Fc: Rs 170; Q: Rs 113; Shp: Rs 57; Thp: Rs 51; Tri: Rs 452 & 149; Ex: Rs 763 & 459. **VII race**: Rs 28w; 12, 10, 15p; Fc: Rs 47; Q: Rs 23; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 33; Tri: Rs 187 & 143 Ex: Rs 294 & 118.
Jackpot: Rs 4,830 (62). **Runner-up**: Rs 252 (509). **I treble**: Rs 118 (51). **II treble**: Rs 792 (13).

Scotland edge closer; Ghana make the cut

PARIS, AFP

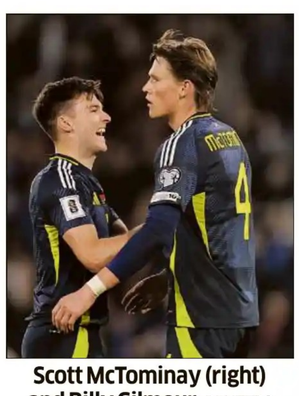
Scotland moved top of their 2026 World Cup qualifying group with a tense 2-1 win at home to Belarus on Sunday, while the Netherlands closed in on securing their berth at the tournament with a comfortable win over Finland.

Steve Clarke's Scotland provisionally lead Group C by three points ahead of Denmark, although the Danes can hit back to take top spot when they host Greece later. Che Adams scored the opener for the hosts on the quarter-hour at Hampden Park in an otherwise uninspiring performance by Scotland.

Scott McTominay eventually managed to seal an important victory for Scotland as he lashed home with his left foot with six minutes remaining. Belarus punished poor Scotland defending deep in injury time as Hleb Kuchko found the net but it was too little, too late for the visitors as the Scots clung on to boos from their own fans.

Scotland now boast 10 points in their pool and are assured of at least a play-off spot if third-placed Greece, on three, lose to Denmark in Copenhagen.

Donyell Malen, Virgil van Dijk, Memphis Depay and Cody Gakpo all found the net as the Dutch romped six points clear at the summit of Group G with a 4-0 defeat of Finland at the Johan Cruijff ArenA.



Scott McTominay (right) and Billy Gilmour. REUTERS

Faroe Islands continued their excellent form in Group L as they stunned the Czech Republic in Torshavn, winning 2-1.

Martin Agnarsson grabbed the winner on 81 minutes, 120 seconds after Adam Karabec had seemed to spare Czech blushes when he cancelled out the hosts's 67th-minute opener.

Ghana celebrate

Mohammed Kudus scored as Ghana beat Comoros 1-0 in Accra on Sunday to win Group I and become the fifth African qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup after Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, add AFP from Johannesburg.

India in must-win situation

MARGAO, PTI: The Indian football team's hopes of qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 hang by a thread as they prepare to host Singapore in a crucial return-leg clash at the Fatorda Stadium here on Tuesday.

With only victory likely to keep their slim chances alive, coach Khalid Jamil will welcome the additions of Mohun Bagan Super Giant defender Subhasish Bose and midfielder Lalengmawia 'Apuia' Ralte to the squad, giving the Blue Tigers a timely boost ahead of the high-stakes outing.

With Sandesh Jhingan suspended, the inclusion of Bose and Apuia will significantly bolster India's squad as the former brings leadership and composure to the defence. It will provide much-needed experience against pacey forwards like Ikhsan Fandi and Shawal Anuar.

Apuia, meanwhile, would strengthen the midfield with his ability to control possession, dictate the tempo with proper coordination between defence with attack, and India would also bank on the home advantage.

It will also give coach Jamil tactical flexibility, allowing India to remain more balanced, resilient, and proactive as they chase a must-win result at home.

Paris Olympic medallists feated with cash awards

NEW DELHI, PTI

The country's 2024 Paris Olympics medallists, including star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and shooter Manu Bhaker, were on Monday felicitated with cash awards by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) at a grand function here.

Chopra, who clinched a silver in the men's javelin throw, could not receive the award in person as he is currently out of the country. An Athletics Federation of India (AFI) official collected the Rs 75 lakh cheque from Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya who graced the event.

Chopra's then coach Klaus Bartonietz of Germany, who is no longer with the superstar, was honoured with Rs 20 lakh. Bartonietz was also not present at the event.

Manu first received Rs 50 lakh for her bronze medal in individual 10m air pistol and then shared Rs 75 lakh with Sarabjot Singh for their third place finish in mixed 10m air pistol team event.

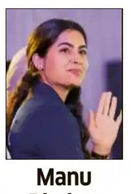
Her coach Jaspal Rana was handed Rs 10 lakh for guiding Manu to bronze medal in individual 10m air pistol. He then shared Rs 15 lakh with Abhishek Rana for the third place finish by Manu and Sarabjot in the mixed 10m air pistol event.

Wreslter Aman Sehrawat, who won a bronze in 57kg freestyle, was honoured with Rs 50 lakh.

CASH AWARDS

- Neeraj Chopra: Rs 75 lakh
- Klaus Bartonietz (former coach): Rs 20 lakh
- Manu Bhaker: Rs 50 lakh
- Sarabjot Singh & Manu Bhaker: Rs 75 lakh
- Aman Sehrawat: 50 lakh
- Ali Shabanov (Aman's coach): 15 lakh
- Jaspal Rana (Bhaker's coach): 10 lakh
- Jaspal Rana & Abhishek Rana: Rs 15 lakh
- Swapanil Kusale: Rs 50 lakh
- Deepali Deshpande: 15 lakh
- Indian men's hockey team (main squad): Rs 10 lakh each
- Indian men's hockey team (reserve team): Rs 5 lakh each
- Craig Fulton (men's team head coach): 20 lakh

Neeraj Chopra



Manu Bhaker

Aman makes plea

Paris Olympics bronze medallist grappler Aman Sehrawat requested the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to reconsider the one-year ban imposed on him for failing to make weight at the World Championships in Zagreb.

During a felicitation programme organised by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Sehrawat admitted that he committed a mistake by not making weight at the premier tournament last month.

Ashwa Tokyo for BTC Cup

DELHI SELECTIONS

Ashwa Tokyo, from the stables of S Nawab nd to be ridden by Vishal, is fancied to win the Bangalore Turf Club Cup, the feature event of the Delhi races run over a sprint at the races on Tuesday.

First race starts at 2.00 pm.

1. Kavery Plate - 1400M: Ashwa Jimbabe 1, Mr Christopher 2, Winning Legacy 3.

2. Lalbagh Plate (Div-I) - 1000M: Danny's Girl 1, Ronaldo 2, Bison 3.

3. Bannerghatta Plate (Div-I) - 1200M: Golden Sun 1, Tequila 2, Trusted Friend 3.

4. Bannerghatta Plate (Div-II) - 1200M: Bay Of Biscay 1, Chieftain 2, Heer 3.

5. Bangalore Turf Club Cup - 1200M: Ashwa Tokyo 1, Angel In My Heart 2, Properly Posh 3.

6. Lalbagh Plate (Div-II) - 1000M: Ashwa Frankie 1, Bumble Bee 2, Yakutsk 3.

7. Karnataka Plate - 1000M: Euphoria 1, Miss Marmalade 2, Alex 3.

Day's best: Golden Sun.

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Treble**: 5, 6 & 7.

Tryon, Kapp fifties take South Africa home

VISHAKHAPATNAM, PTI: South Africa rode on Chloe Tryon and Marizanne Kapp's fifties after a jittery start to beat Bangladesh by three wickets in a Women's ODI World Cup match here on Monday.

Opting to bat, Bangladesh posted 232 for six against South Africa.

Bangladesh made a slow start with openers Fargana Hoque (30) and Rubya Haider (25) stitching 53 runs in 16.1 overs for the first wicket.

Chasing 233, Tryon (62 off 69) and Kapp (56 off 71) scored most of the runs to help South Africa achieve the target with three balls to spare, reaching 235 for seven.

Nadine de Klerk finished the game once again with an unbeaten 37 off 29 balls.

Before the 18-year-old Shorna stepped on the accelerator, Sharmin Akhter (50 off 77 balls) and captain Nigar Sultana (32 off 42) added 77 runs for the third wicket to anchor the Bangladesh innings after a start, when the boundaries were hard to come by.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 232/6 in 50 overs (Fargana Hoque 30, Rubya Haider 25, Sharmin Akhter 50, Nigar Sultana 32, Shorna Akter 51; Nonkululeko Mlaba 2-42) lt to South Africa: 235/7 in 49.3 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 31, Anneke Bosch 28, Marizanne Kapp 56, Chloe Tryon 62, Nadine de Klerk 37 n.o.; Nahida Akter 2-44). **PoM:** Chloe Tryon. **Today's match:** Sri Lanka vs New Zealand.

Anneke Bosch (left) and Chloe Tryon. AFP

CRICKET WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP

India must add depth to bowling

Relying on five bowlers has not worked for the hosts against top teams

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

India came into their fourth World Cup game against Australia on Sunday with two key issues to address: tackling opponents' spin and managing their bowling depth.

And for almost 3.5 hours on Sunday, as India scored 330 batting first, the team management would have breathed a little easy.

After having lost 14 wickets to spin in the first three games, India found a way to tackle it and scored 164 runs in 23 overs.

The relaxed ambience in the change room, however, began to turn anxious as Healy pressed the accelerator from the start of the chase.

And a few hours later, it was deja vu as India lost their appetite for the second time and slipped to as many defeats in the space of three days.

An off-colour Indian side will now face England and the happy selection headaches have turned into a migraine.

The management needs to accept that the bowling attack lacks experience. Kranti Gaud, among India's promising talents, is young and might not be fully ready to lead an attack with just another all-round pace option.

And this is where India could use Renuka Singh, a genuine wicket-taker with the new ball and someone who could bring her experience at the backend, adding variety to an unidimensional attack.

"Obviously, after this game (Australia), we'll have a look at it (five-bowler strategy) and I'm sure the team management will have a proper discussion about it and then we'll take a right call as we approach the next game," head coach Amol Muzumdar said in the post-match press conference.

The four specialist bowler strategy comes with a massive risk and doesn't allow any bowler to have a bad day. This rarely happens on flat surfaces conducive to batting, especially when bowlers use soap-like balls once dew takes over.

India's two seamers – Kranti and Amanjot – conceded 99 runs in 14.5 overs against South Africa and 141 in 18 overs against Australia. Worse, they leaked a combined 30 runs in 47th and 49th overs, allowing South Africa to get out of the woods from a potentially losing position. And such slips ups are not good enough for a World Cup hopeful side. However, India have the liberty to bring in the experienced Renuka.

The only question: for whom among Jemimah Rodrigues or Harleen Deol?

If they go with the extra bowler, India also have the luxury of Sneh Rana, who is averaging 44.50 and striking at 114.10, batting at eight, adding an extra layer of safety net.

So with the batting down to No. 8, Renuka's wicket-taking ability and her experience in leading the bowling attack should outweigh the runs an extra batter potentially brings.

All in all, one of Harleen or Jemimah will have to make way for possibly 10 overs of pace, which could affect a malfunctioning batting line-up but that's the risk the hosts should be willing to take.

Clockwise from left: India might look to bring pacer Renuka Singh for either Harleen Deol or Jemimah Rodrigues to bolster their bowling attack after suffering back-to-back defeats to South Africa and Australia. PTI

Mascarenhas secures podium

MILLAU (FRANCE), PTI

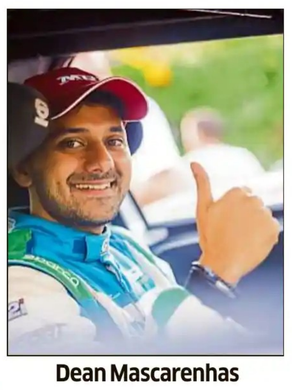
Indian driver Dean Mascarenhas delivered an impressive performance on his European debut, finishing second in the Rally4 class at the 41st Rallye Terre des Cardabelles (French Gravel Rally) here.

Partnering with seasoned Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Morales, the Mangaluru ace piloted a Peugeot 208 GT Line in the FRC4 group's Rally4 category.

The duo clocked 1hour, 37 minutes 43.4 seconds to secure 36th overall among 122 starters, a strong result in one of France's toughest gravel events that saw 40 retirements, with only 82 cars reaching the finish on Sunday night.

"The stages were super-fast, technical, and very different from what I'm used to in India. It was the toughest rally I have ever competed in.

"Gabriel and I found a good rhythm, and finishing on the podium in such a strong field gives us huge motivation for what lies ahead," said Mascarenhas.



Dean Mascarenhas

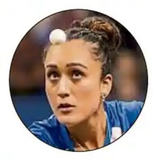
Atiqa stuns

Indian racing prodigy Atiqa Mir bossed a male-dominated grid to become the first-ever female winner in the minimax category of the RMC UAE Karting Championship, reports PTI from Al Ain.

In a fledgling career of many firsts, the 10-year-old took the race lead on lap four before breaking away to complete a win.

India out of medal race

BHUBANESWAR, PTI: India's hopes for redemption on the table were dashed yet again as the women's team followed the men to the exit door from the Asian Team Table Tennis Championships after an unexpected quarterfinal loss to Singapore here on Monday.



After the men's debacle, all eyes turned to the women to restore national pride. But instead of resurgence, what unfolded was another story of squandered chances and unfulfilled potential.

The fourth-seeded Indian women, expected to assert their growing stature, faltered against qualifier Singapore — a team they should have beaten — exposing the same old frailties: inconsistency, nerves, and an inability to close out crucial moments.

Manika Batra **(in pic)**, still India's brightest name, looked out of rhythm and short of answers against a defensive opponent ranked over a hundred places below her.

Diya Chitale let a winning position slip away.

St Joseph's boys claim a double as Cottonians clinch one title

BENGLAURU, DHNS: St. Joseph's Boys' High School emerged victorious in the Invitational Cottonian Shield Football Tournament, clinching the U-19 and U-17 finals over Bishop Cotton Boys' School here.

Manav and Nihal converted the decisive penalties in a 2-0 win in the U-19 final, with Nihal named the player of the match.

While St. Joseph's lifted the trophy, Bishop Cotton earned the fair play award, and Styrus Joyyem was named the best player of the tournament. Sameer Deepak Godhi took home the best goalkeeper award.

St. Joseph's also triumphed in the U-17 final, beating Bishop Cotton 3-1 with goals from Vijaeth, Brenden S and Sachin.

Results: Final: U-19: St. Joseph's Boys' High School: 2 (Nihal, Manav) bt Bishop Cotton Boys' School: 0. **Best player of the tournament:** Styrus Joyyem (Bishop Cotton). **Best goalkeeper:** Sameer Godhi (Bishop Cotton) **U-17:** St. Joseph's: 3 (Vijaeth 15th, Brenden S 32nd, Sachin 45th) bt Bishop Cotton: 1 (Md. Dyaan 38th). **Best player:** Dyaan (Bishop Cotton). **Best goalkeeper:** Ebrahim Zishaan (The Cathedral High School)**U-14:** Bishop Cotton: 3 (Arshith Samanthara 1st, Carlos Emmanuel 16th, Ruan Ganapathi 17th) bt St. Joseph's: 0. **Best player:** Ruan Ganapathi CC (Bishop Cotton). **Best goalkeeper:** Rishikesh R (Bishop Cotton). **Staff:** Bishop Cotton: 3 (Wilson Sampath Kumar, Thiru Kumaran 2 goals) bt The Cathedral High School: 0.

Shashank stars in Kodagu win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shashank Rana scored a brace, while Aditya Pratap Rathore, BS Mrinal Muthanna, Lalkrawsmawia and Tagru James found the back of the net as Kodagu FC thrashed MFAR Students Union FC 6-0 in a KSFA Super Division League Championship match at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

Shashank opened the account for Kodagu in the 34th minute. Aditya doubled the team's tally in the 39th before Mrinal tripled it in the 41st. Kodagu's domination continued in the second half as Lalkrawsmawia, James and Shashank scored to wrap the game up.

In the day's other fixtures, South United FC eased past Bharat Bengaluru 4-1 while MEG & Centre FC scripted a 4-2 win over HAL FC.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: Kodagu FC: 6 (Shashank Rana 34th, 90th+4, Aditya Pratap Rathore 39th, BS Mrinal Muthanna 41st, Lalkrawsmawia 79th, Tagru James 85th) bt MFAR Students Union FC: 0; South United FC: 4 (Tharun Kumar 21st, Makakmayum Daniyal 23rd, 28th, Talib Nazir 51st) bt Bharat Bengaluru: 1 (Mangkhost Haokip 45th); MEG & Centre FC: 4 (Ningthoujam Leisemba Metei 17th, Sarath Narayanan M 37th, 48th, Siddhant Pranay 72nd) bt HAL FC: 2 (Adhikarimayum Arun Kumar Sharma 25th, Suraj WangKhem 85th).

Kodagu FC's Lalkrawsmawia celebrates after scoring against MFAR Students Union FC during the Super Division league championship at BFS in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Jain Heritage are champions

BENGALURU, DHNS

Jain Heritage School were crowned champions of the KSCA Under-16 (I Division) tournament for the KM Ramprasad Shield after drawing the final with Holy Saint English School at BGS here, thanks to a crucial first-innings lead.

Arnav Anil's brilliant 87 anchored Jain Heritage's first innings total of 168, giving them the upper hand in a low-scoring contest. Holy Saint's P Jayanth Abhiram impressed with the ball, taking 6/48 in the first innings and 4/40 in the second, finishing with 10 wickets in the losing cause.

Vidhat S' five-wicket haul (5/27) and Aaryansinh Chavda's 4/37 proved decisive in the first innings, ensuring Jain Heritage took crucial the lead despite a fighting 68 from Brahmanya Theertha R Kuber.

JHS put up a target of 209 on the final day after getting bundled out for 165 in the second innings with Daksh JN scoring 78.

Jain Heritage School, winners of KSCA Under-16 (I Div) tournament for the KM Ramprasad Shield. STANDING (I row, from left): Daksh JN, Arnav Anil, Nakuldev Shetty K, Vidhat S, Vansh Pratap Singh, Siddharth Kailash Gaikwad, Vaibhav Ram K, Shivom Yogesh Mehare, Rishab Hiremath. (II row): Shrehaan Chauhan, Aarya Raj, Samrat Aditya P, Om Jumani, Satvik Dummi, Aaryansinh Narendrasinh Chavda, Niyanta Santosh Kulkarni, Ravipati Uday Venugopal Choudary. SITTING: Chiranjeevi (coach), Aditya Jha (captain), Archana Vishwanath (director), Jolly Joseph (principal), Krishna (sports consultant) and Arun Reddy (sports coordinator).

Brief scores: Jain Heritage School: 168 all out in 55.2 overs (Arnav Anil 87, Aaryansinh Chavda 35; P Jayanth Abhiram 6-48, Swayam Shabadi 2-37, Krish Rao 2-54) and 165 all out in 62 overs (Daksh JN 78, Shrehaan Chauhan 27; P Jayanth Abhiram 4-40, Krish Rao 3-56) drew with Holy Saint English School: 125 all out in 45.5 overs (Brahmanya Theertha R Kuber 68 off 119 balls; Arnav N Manchale 31; Vidhat S 5-27, Aaryansinh Chavda 4-37) and 68/2 in 12 overs (Brahmanya Theertha R Kuber 52 n.o.).

Centurion Manikanth powers K'taka U-19 to big win

BENGALURU, DHNS: A scintillating century from Manikanth Shivanand guided Karnataka U-19 to a commanding 206-run win over Tripura in a Group A match of the Vinoo Mankad Trophy played in Dehradun on Monday.

Manikanth's unbeaten 143 off 125 balls, studded with 15 fours and 2 sixes, laid the foundation for Karnataka's imposing total of 307 for 6 in 50 overs.

Contributions from Rehan Mohammed (55 off 40) and Anvay Dravid (26) ensured the team crossed the 300-run mark with authority.

Brief scores: Karnataka U-19: 307/6 in 50 overs (Nitish Arya L 41, Manikanth Shivanand 143, Anvay Dravid 26, Rehan Mohammed 55) bt Tripura: 101 all out in 25.1 overs (Vaibhav C 3-22, Akshath Prabhakar 4-16).

Vaishnavi, Chiranth claim gold medals

BENGALURU, DHNS

In another medal-laden day for Karnataka, teenagers Vaishnavi Rawal **(in pic)** and Chiranth P bagged individual gold medals in their respective events at the National Junior Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar on Monday. In total, the state's athletes bagged four medals on the day.

Chiranth clocked 21.81 seconds to take the gold medal in the boys' U-18 200m final ahead of Punjab's Jashanpreet Singh (21.94) while Vaishnavi reigned supreme in the girls' U-20 800m final with a timing of 2:07.84. This was Vaishnavi's second gold medal at the event as she won the 1500m title earlier.

The rest of the two medals came in the U-20 400m hurdles. Apurva Naik (1:02.56) bagged silver behind Haryana's Muskan while Bhushan Patil (52.07) took the bronze behind Tamil Nadu's duo of Vinshu (gold) and Gurudeep in a close final.

Meanwhile, Haryana's discus thrower Nishchay breached the World U-20 Championships qualification mark of 56 metres while taking the gold and meet record with a throw of 63.69m in the boys' U-18 category. The previous meet record was set by Atul in 2022 in Guwahati.

Results: Boys: U-20: 200m: Vishnu (TN), 51.74s, 1; Gurudeep S (TN) 52.02, Bhushan Patil (Kar) 52.07, 3. **U-18: 200m:** Chiranth P (Kar) 21.81s, 1; Jashanpreet Singh (Pun) 21.94, 2; Seshu Duddu (AP) 22.09, 3. **Girls: U-20: 400m H:** Muskan (Har) 1:01.75, 1; Apurva Naik (Kar) 1:02.56, 2; G Prithika (TN) 1:02.79, 3. **800m:** Vaishnavi Rawal (Kar) 2:07.84, 1; Payal (Har) 2:08.27, 2; Geetika Dahiya (Har) 2:09.18

Vrinda Dinesh

Vrinda's blistering ton powers Karnataka home

BENGALURU, DHNS: Vrinda Dnesh produced a blistering ton while Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Sahana Pawar claimed two wickets each as Karnataka outplayed Haryana for a 65-run in a BCCI Senior Women's T20 Trophy match in Gwalior on Monday.

Vrinda's 58-ball 118, which came with help of four sixes and 14 fours, guided Karnataka to an impressive 187/3 in 20 overs.

In reply, Haryana could muster only 123/8 in 20 overs with Rajeshwari (3/23) and Sahana (3/26) sharing the bowling spoils.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 187/3 in 20 overs (Vrinda Dinesh 118, Niki Prasad 34) bt Haryana: 123/8 in 20 overs (Deeya Yadav 60; Rajeshwari Gayakwad 3-23, Sahana S Pawar 3-26).

AGAINST ALL ODDS

Gunning for glory: Ancy, a single parent who raised a champion son

Shooter Jonathan has taken big strides in recent months

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

For those who haven't seen Jonathan Gavin Antony compete, the Bengaluru youngster often gazes at the spectator stands behind the firing range after every shot.

The 16-year-old locks eyes with Ancy Alphonse—his mother, first coach, best friend, travel companion, and unwavering support—seeking, at times, her approval and, more often, her encouragement. The single parent and son know they can depend only on each other in their pursuit of their lofty dreams.

"I didn't like shooting at first," Jonathan tells *DH*. "But I gradually developed a liking for it. My mother was an NCC shooter and wanted me to excel. So here I am today," he adds.

And excelled he has.

The teen of few words made a big splash at the recently concluded ISSF Junior World Cup in New Delhi by clinching gold in the 10m air pistol event. He followed it up by bagging a silver in the corresponding mixed team competition with partner Vanshika Chaudhary.

"I'm my own competition, really. I was going for the gold from the beginning," says Jonathan who won the individual medal by a huge margin of 8.5 points by shooting 21 out of the final 24 shots in the 10s.

Jonathan Antony (second from right), celebrates his gold medal at the Junior Shooting World Cup in New Delhi with his mother Ancy Alphonse (left), brother Johan and coach Jitu Rai (right).

The talented boy first caught everyone's attention earlier this year by outwitting Paris Olympics bronze-medallist Sarabjot Singh and star shooter Saurabh Chaudhary to win the 10m air pistol gold at the National Games in February.

While most were scrambling to find out who the new kid on the block was, mother Ancy quietly watched; her sacrifices beginning to bear fruit.

But it was not easy.

"Just after he (her former partner) left us for another relationship, I wanted to prove that a single mother can do anything in the world. There are four people dependent on me, my parents and my two kids," says Ancy.

"I worked the night shift in an MNC company and at a school in the morning. And then, in between, I would take tuitions too," reminisces Ancy. A small spices business followed suit.

"Joe (Jonathan) would help pack them and take it to the supermarket. With that money he used to buy pellets. Shooting is an expensive sport. Many people told me we couldn't do this, but I was adamant and this is how we managed," she says.

The grade 11 student of BS International School in Electronic City in Bengaluru currently trains under Khel Ratna Awardee and former World Championship silver medallist Jitu Rai at his academy in Siliguri, Darjeeling. Jonathan lives close to the training centre in a house rented by Ancy for most months in a year while Johan (second son) stays with the grandparents in Bengaluru.

The feeling of winning after much hardship might be satisfying but Ancy is cautious and Jonathan is conscious about sustaining a long career in the brutal sporting world.

Even his technique of shooting with both eyes open (without glasses which cover the vision of one eye) is rare in the country, and many have warned against it in the long run. But Jonathan is unperturbed.

"I'm comfortable and confident this way. It's been tough, yes, but I hope to make my mom proud," says Jonathan.

Bengaluru Torpedoes win

HYDERABAD, PTI: Bengaluru Torpedoes continued their winning streak, beating Chennai Blitz 3-1 in the Prime Volleyball League here on Monday.

The Torpedoes beat Blitz 17-15, 14-16, 17-15, 16-14 to register fourth straight win in the league.

Joel Benjamin was adjudged the player-of-the-match for his efforts.

Chennai started the game at a lightning pace with captain Jerome Vinith and Luiz Felipe Perotto leading the charge.

Bengaluru's Benjamin and Sethu fired in attacks.

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